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REVIEW OF THE BIRDING YEAR 2021

The year began where 2020 had finished, with lockdown leisure travel restrictions that extended into April in Wales. This meant that volunteer bird surveys had to be cancelled, including the core Wetland Bird Surveys in the peak winter months that had been relatively unaffected in 2020. Despite this, and perhaps boosted by more English birders visiting Wales from April onwards, the number of BirdTrack records submitted from Welsh sites was 453,725, a record high, and the number of complete lists was only 3% below 2019. The spatial distribution of these records was also more typical of pre-pandemic times, with increases on 2020 in Mid and North Wales and relatively fewer in South Wales.

Waterbird winter and early migrants

Battling COVID protocols, landowner permissions and bad weather, BTO Cymru completed a survey of piscivorous birds on all 11 major river catchments in Wales, resulting in the first national winter population estimates of 1460 Goosanders and 2894 Cormorants, half of the latter being on estuaries. In addition, surveyors found 575 Mandarins on the main river channels.

A handful of Bewick's Swans on the Dee estuary were the first in Wales since 2019, but were the sole Welsh records this year. 8000 Pink-footed Geese on the Flintshire side of the Dee in February was part of a record 23,000 across the whole estuary while a count of 43 Dark-bellied Brent Geese at Aberthaw, Eastern Glamorgan, on 13 February was the highest in the recording area for more than 30 years. A flock of 18 Greenland White-fronted Geese on Anglesey, GPS-tracked by BTO Cymru to parts of the island previously unrecognised as grazing areas, was the largest for many years, but the flock size on the Dyfi estuary, Ceredigion/Meirionnydd, was below the recent average.

A Black-necked Grebe off Llanddulas, Denbighshire, in March was the only Welsh record, making it the worst year for several decades, and there was not a single Red-necked Grebe in winter 2020/21 or the first part of winter 2021/22. There were few Glaucous or Iceland Gulls and no Waxwings in either winter period but egrets again reached new highs, flocks of 17 Cattle Egret (in Pembrokeshire) and 21 Great White Egrets (in Flintshire) being new national records, and courtship display of the latter species was recorded in Gower.

Up to 20 Velvet Scoters off Mochras, Meirionnydd, in February was unusual for recent times, but the tally of Long-tailed Ducks around the Welsh coast was the lowest for a decade. A flotilla of *c.*200 Eiders off Penmon, Anglesey, in March was the largest group ever seen in North Wales. A roost of up to 95 Choughs at Aberdaron, Caernarfonshire, was the largest ever recorded in Wales,

Top 10 species by reporting rate to BirdTrack in 2021.

Species	% of BirdTrack lists
Blackbird	68.9
Carrion Crow	68.5
Robin	66.4
Woodpigeon	60.8
Magpie	54.6
Blue Tit	53.6
Herring Gull	52.3
Jackdaw	52.1
Wren	50.0
Dunnock	46.0

Species with the greatest increase in BirdTrack reporting rate (2013-15/2019-21).

Species	% of BirdTrack lists
Great White Egret	+800
Egyptian Goose	+750
Cattle Egret	+700
Ruddy Shelduck	+400
Marsh Harrier	+306
Ring-necked Duck	+300
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	+286
Mandarin Duck	+250
Spoonbill	+225
Glossy Ibis	+200

Species with the greatest reduction in BirdTrack reporting rate (2013-15/2019-21).

Species	% of BirdTrack lists
Storm Petrel	-92
Yellow-browed Warbler	-86
Pomarine Skua	-80
Bar-headed Goose	-78
Short-eared Owl	-78
Puffin	-76
Little Gull	-75
Manx Shearwater	-75
Hooded Crow	-74
Little Owl	-73

Excludes species with a zero value in more than two years during 2013-21.

and a flock of 24 Corn Buntings at Bettisfield, Flintshire, the largest since before the species ceased to breed regularly in Wales.

Brief interludes of warm weather in an otherwise cold but dry spring encouraged some early summer migrants, with Wheatears and Sand Martins in several counties in February, including the earliest ever of the latter species in Eastern Glamorgan. In March there were Sedge Warblers in several counties, Reed Warbler in Eastern

Glamorgan, Pied Flycatcher in Montgomeryshire and Whitethroat in Flintshire.

A nominate *limosa* Black-tailed Godwit on Pembrokeshire's Gann estuary in March was only the second Welsh record, its colour-ring being traced back to its natal site in The Netherlands. April saw a ringed Dipper recaught in Abertillery, Gwent, and a Hawfinch near Dolgellau, Meirionnydd, that proved to be the longest living of their species in more than a century of the British & Irish ringing scheme, both around 10 years old.

First the frosts, then the rain

A mix of travel restrictions and cold northerly winds resulted in a rather disjointed spring migration. There were few Black Terns, although a flock of 10 off Lavernock Point, Eastern Glamorgan, in May was notable, as were larger-than-usual numbers of Storm Petrels off southeast Wales that month. Good numbers of some summer migrants returned, including Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler and Chiffchaff, and especially Whitethroat, which is thought to result from higher than average survival of young from 2020 (BTO 2022). Willow Warbler was the only migratory species to record a significant decrease in abundance at UK Constant Effort Sites level in 2021.

The weather had a significant effect on the breeding season, with poor nesting success and productivity monitored in several passerine species. Delayed site occupation or abandoned breeding attempts also occurred in other birds, including Dipper, Curlew and Chough, especially those of the latter that nest in sea caves. Blue Tit and Great Tit had disastrous breeding seasons across the UK, although nestbox monitoring in Wales shows that it was locally variable. Pied Flycatchers also had a tough time but seem to have delayed nesting, even though their arrival dates were typical, but where they did occupy nestboxes, some Welsh sites produced average productivity levels. The numbers of adult Chaffinch and Greenfinch encountered were lower than in any previous year, with the latter showing a 64% fall in adult overwinter survival. Of species monitored by the BTO Nest Recording Scheme, only Stonechat and Woodpigeon bred significantly earlier, Stonechat by eight days.

Nesting attempts by Oystercatcher, Lapwing and Mute Swan were among those washed out by rising water levels in May, while others such as Great Crested Grebes abandoned after those lake levels fell in June. Although there is precious little data on Curlew breeding success, with low levels recognised as being the driver of their population decline, elevated recording effort resulted in more than 110 breeding territories being identified. Other wader species struggled too, with almost complete breeding failure of Avocets at Newport Wetlands Reserve, Gwent, and mean productivity of only 0.5 fledged Lapwing chicks/pair across Wales after many first nests/broods were lost completely. Wet conditions may have suited a pair of Little Ringed Plovers at RSPB Cors Ddyga, the first to breed on Anglesey. Cetti's Warblers continued their recovery from severe cold in 2018 with a 33% increase in abundance recorded by ringers across the UK. In Wales more inland sites were occupied, including the first confirmed breeding in Montgomeryshire, and a record 93 territories at Newport Wetlands Reserve, Gwent. Dartford Warblers have, however, proved slower to recover.

Manx Shearwater (Ed Betteridge)

Weather was not the only risk faced by breeding birds, as national attention was drawn to the deliberate destruction of an Osprey nest platform and its contents at Llyn Brenig, Denbighshire, a crime that remains unsolved. Nonetheless, the species continues to grow its Welsh population slowly, with Caernarfonshire recording its first ever nest, and birds would over-summer in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire. Peregrines also had a poor breeding season, continuing a sequence of several years, with vacant territories and low nesting success.

Mixed season for breeding seabirds

Kittiwake numbers fell further, especially in North Wales, although, where productivity was monitored, it was well above the recent (rather meagre) average. Cliff-nesting numbers of Herring Gulls were down at most colonies and productivity was again poor, with no chicks fledging from the study plot on Skomer for the first time since monitoring began in 1962. The tally of Lesser Black-backed Gull nests was also 4% down on the previous year of monitoring, but breeding productivity was higher in many instances. Cormorant numbers were 33% lower than the previous survey of the same sites, with marked reductions at the two most important colonies in North Wales and the lowest total on St Margaret's Island, Pembrokeshire, since 1960.

By contrast, Fulmar numbers were up 12% on the previous site counts, the first increase for some years and productivity was close to the long-term average in many, but not all, places. Guillemot numbers were mostly up on the last counts but two storms during incubation may have been the cause of widespread nest failure at the country's largest colony, on Skomer, Pembrokeshire. Razorbills, also present in increased numbers, seem to have fared better and the number of Black Guillemots around the Welsh coast in spring was higher than usual, with breeding confirmed in two counties and probable in a third. The presence of Gannets on Anglesey's Ynys Badrig continued to tease but did not result in confirmed breeding.

Sandwich Terns at the only Welsh colony, Cemlyn, had a successful breeding season, fledging up to 1600 young alongside Wales' second Elegant Tern that spent much of July at the Anglesey site. Little Terns also had a good year, with more than 200 young fledged from the long-standing Gronant colony and 10 from the satellite established at RSPB Point of Ayr, Flintshire. Following the abandonment of The Skerries, Anglesey, by Common and Arctic Terns in 2020, it was with relief that over 3300 pairs returned to nest under the protection of the wardens. It was a record year for Mediterranean Gull nests, with seven pairs fledging five young in Wales, its establishment here being rather halting. Concerns were expressed about the levels of disturbance of coastal birds, especially from motorised watercraft, with increased domestic tourism and the 'staycation' boom.

Common and rare breeders, and surprising post-breeding movements

The Breeding Bird Survey was able to restart in 2021 after cancellation of most visits by lockdown restrictions in 2020. Several species continued their downward slide, including Yellowhammer (-75% since 1995), Curlew (-73%), Rook (-63%), House Martin (-40%) Coal Tit (-25%) and Skylark (-24%) among those falling to their lowest levels yet. By contrast, Stonechat (+256%), Blackcap (+197%) and Siskin (+160%) reached new highs. The cool and wet May provided challenging feeding conditions for birds. An indication comes from butterfly records, many common and widespread species doing poorly. Even some widespread species that have shown long-term increases fared badly, with Ringlet recording its lowest numbers since 2012. In Wales 2021 was an average year for butterflies in Wales, ranking 24th of 46 years since monitoring began.

Proven breeding of Garganey at Kenfig Rivermouth, Gower, was only the 10th confirmed nesting of the species in Wales, although another pair bred just beyond the Flintshire border. RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands also hosted successful breeding of Pintails, the first known breeding attempt in Wales since 2002. There were no proven nesting Black Redstarts, but it was strongly suspected in Caernarfonshire.

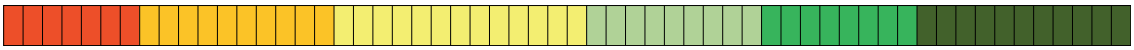
The decline of Coot in Wales may be passing unnoticed by comparison with some other birds, with a halving in wintering numbers across the country and only one nest confirmed in Caernarfonshire and none in Meirionnydd. Kestrel is another species in trouble but without the benefit of a BBS trend to monitor its numbers. A ringing project in Ceredigion reported reasonable nesting success, and one of the colour-ringed young was resighted at Rattray Head lighthouse on the Aberdeenshire coast in September. A northeasterly move was also made by a juvenile Garden Warbler ringed at Llangorse Lake, Breconshire, which was recaught in South Yorkshire the following month.

Surprise summer visitors

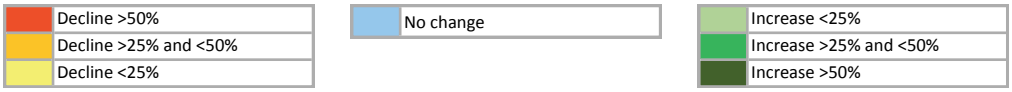
Early June saw the first of 24 Rose-coloured Starlings to arrive through the remainder of the year, beating the record 18 in 2020, but a Black-headed Bunting on feeders in a beer garden in Brynamman, Carmarthenshire, proved to be a one-day wonder. The only addition to the Welsh List flew across Fall Bay, Gower, in the form of a Pacific Swift on 27 June, while a Caspian Tern at Penclacwydd, Carmarthenshire, originated from a 2019 nest in Finland and became the first ringing movement of the species to

Change in indices of selected species monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey in long- and short-term

1995-2020 change (58 species)



2019-21 change (60 species)



Britain & Ireland. A Great White Egret at RSPB Conwy, Denbighshire, had been colour-ringed two months earlier as a nestling in Somerset, and was the first British-ringed individual of its species to be resighted in Wales.

Wonderful waders

A Pacific Golden Plover on Anglesey in late July was only the second Welsh record, and with an American Golden Plover in Pembrokeshire in October, this was the first year that all three of the World's golden plover species have appeared in the same *Welsh Bird Report*.

The Dee estuary bustled with waterbirds from late summer, with record counts of over 5000 Canada Geese including 1800 in Flintshire, 32,000 Oystercatchers of which more than one-third were at RSPB Point of Ayr, 4000 Black-tailed Godwits at Connah's Quay NR that were more than half the estuary's record total that month, and 322 Little Egrets including 202 in Flintshire that constitute a new Welsh site record. To the west, over 1800 Curlews on Traeth Lafan, Caernarfonshire, in July was the largest site count ever in Wales. It was the best autumn passage of Wood and Curlew Sandpipers since 2013 but the lowest annual total of Grey Phalaropes since 2007.

Autumn on the move

Thousands of Kittiwakes were in Cardigan Bay during September, including many colour-ringed at colonies in France. In mid-September it became apparent that Jay numbers were building at coastal locations, and counts increased to a peak on 6 October that included a site/day record count of 300 at Dunraven, Eastern Glamorgan. The recent trend of increasing Yellow-browed Warblers halted across Britain, with just 12 in Wales – only the reporting rate for Storm Petrel has declined at a faster rate on

Curlew (Dave Parry)

BirdTrack. There were no Pallas's Warblers, which breed in the same part of Siberia as Yellow-browed Warblers, but there were plenty of Siberian Chiffchaffs, the annual total of 32 being 25% of the number recorded in Wales since 1995.

A Ruddy Duck at Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, Gower, in September was the first in Wales since 2018. On Anglesey, 1500 Greylag Geese on Llyn Alaw in September was an island record and 1200 Tufted Ducks in October the largest count on the island since 1986. A dozen Egyptian Geese in the upper Dee estuary were most likely the result of successful breeding on the Wirral side.

In early October, a 1CY Hen Harrier satellite-tagged as a chick by RSPB Cymru in Migneint, Caernarfonshire, embarked on an extraordinary 72-hour flight into the Atlantic Ocean before turning back to southern Portugal and wintering farther south than any previous Hen Harrier from Britain or Ireland has been known.

Interest in both visible migration and nocturnal sound-recording has increased in recent years. Large counts included 20,000 Swallows on 19 September and 23,600 Redwings on 12 October at Lavernock Point. In Gwent, 110 Grey Wagtails at Undy on 3 September and 7786 Meadow Pipits at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 26 September were national site/day records. The first weekend of November saw a huge passage of Woodpigeons over southeast Wales, which must have numbered more than a million. Over three days, more than 376,000 were counted at Porthskewett, Gwent. In the same period there were day counts of over 9000 Chaffinches, 136 Bramblings and 584 Siskins at Llanon, Ceredigion.

Winter beckons, with Swallows but few Pochards

There was a notable movement of Black-throated Divers off Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire, in autumn/winter following northerly winds, and a White-billed Diver here in early November was only the fourth Welsh record. When Wales' second Pacific Diver landed on Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir in December, 2021 became the first year that all five of the World's diver species had been recorded in the country. There were several late land migrants too, including a November record of Lesser Whitethroat in Caernarfon and more December records of Swallow than ever, including an unprecedented flock of 12 in Gower.

Five Red-crested Pochards on Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir on 22 December was the largest group recorded in Wales, but Pochard records continue to evaporate. Notwithstanding a flock of over 100 at that site, several counties recorded only 1-2 all year. It is quite something that Pembrokeshire recorded more Ring-necked Ducks than it did Pochards: 15 of the North American ducks were seen in Wales this year, including a group of four in Carmarthenshire.

A Velvet Scoter on Lake Vyrnwy, Montgomeryshire, in November was the first in any of the three landlocked counties, while out west a flock of almost 450 Mediterranean Gulls feeding off Skokholm in December was a site record. Unintended flooding of RSPB Cors Ddyga late in the year attracted thousands of waterbirds including a site record 375 Shovelers and island records 375 Teal and *c*.560 Black-tailed Godwits.

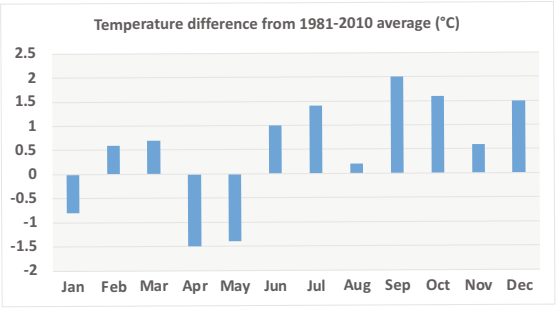
During the autumn, reports of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds emerged from around the UK, with the Svalbard population of Barnacle Geese on the Solway Firth especially hard hit. Reduced Mute Swan numbers at several Welsh sites led to *post-hoc* speculation that HPAI may have caused mortality. In the last three months, six cases were confirmed from Wales: Pheasants in Wrexham, a Herring Gull in Carmarthenshire, Canada Geese on the Dyfi estuary, Mute Swans in Anglesey and Powys, and a Buzzard in Gwynedd (APHA 2021). No surveillance was undertaken to assess the presence of HPAI in wild birds and awareness of HPAI was relatively low, even among birders, so dead birds were probably not reported to the Animal & Plant Health Agency. Certainly, there was no inkling of the devastating impact that it would have on breeding seabirds the following summer.

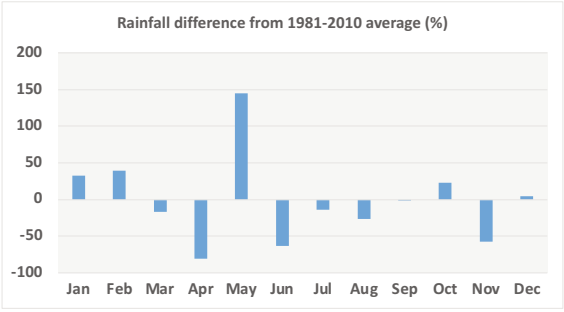
WEATHER SUMMARY FOR WALES IN 2021

This summary is based on the Met. Office monthly summaries for Wales at **metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/summaries/index** and, for river flows, the National Hydrological Monitoring Programme at **nrfa.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk**. Where comparisons are made to an average, these refer to the period 1981-2010.

The trend of increases in annual average temperature continues. The UK mean temperature for 2021 was 9.3°C, which is 0.1°C above the 1981-2010 average. In Wales, nine of the 12 months were above the long-term average, with September notably high and the southern quarter of Wales up to 0.5°C above average. For breeding birds, the notable event was the cold, delayed spring, with temperatures well below average in April and May, which was combined with a very dry April and June, interspersed by the wettest May on record. The monthly variability in precipitation was especially marked in Pembrokeshire and along the England border, which was 5-15% below average for the year.

The first third of **January** was cold with wintry showers at times, but rain and snowfall were generally low except at





higher elevation. It turned mild and wet from the 11th to 20th, with Storm Christoph causing significant flooding and several landslips on 19-20th. Capel Curig, Caernarfonshire, recorded 111mm of rain on 19th. The remainder of the month was changeable, with several colder days and nights, the lowest being -10.8°C at St Harmon, Radnorshire, on 25th. This was followed by mild, wet conditions, including a high of 13.8°C at Usk, Gwent, on 28th but the month finished cold and sleety, with a daytime high of just -0.7°C at Lake Vyrnwy, Montgomeryshire, on 31st.

February started cold and dry, with widespread frosts, temperatures as low as -7.9°C at St Harmon on 11th and a daytime high of only -2.3°C at Lake Vyrnwy on 12th. Otherwise, the month was wetter than January, with heavy rain in South Wales on 19th and 20th causing flooding in the Tywi, Cynon and Usk valleys. 120.2mm of rain fell at Llyn-y-Fan Blaenau, Carmarthenshire, while in the north the wind gusted to 79mph at Capel Curig. The end of the month was dry, sunny and, for a few days, mild: Rhyl, Flintshire, recorded a maximum of 15°C on 23rd and an overnight low of 10°C on 24th.

The cold theme continued into **March**, with a daytime maximum of only 2.7°C at Libanus, Breconshire, on 4th and overnight low of -7.7°C at Sennybridge, Breconshire, and St Harmon on 7th. The middle of the month was unsettled, with fallen trees causing travel problems and leaving homes without power on 10/11th. The final week was windy in the north and 28th saw persistent and locally heavy rain there, with 64.4mm at Capel Curig. By contrast, it was sunny and dry in the south, hitting 21.7°C at Llanfynydd, Carmarthenshire, on 30th.

April was very dry but unseasonally cold, and vegetation growth was noticeably slow. Ground-nesting birds, such as Curlews, that had settled in late March abandoned territories amid heavy frosts and, in the uplands, snow. The maximum temperature at Capel Curig on 6th was only 3.2°C, the overnight low at Sennybridge on 11th was -6.3°C and there was 4cm of lying snow at Lake Vyrnwy on 12th. Although Porthmadog, Caernarfonshire, reached 20.8°C on 23rd, much of the country remained cool throughout the month but the extended dry period led to a significant number of grass and gorse fires. South Wales Fire and Rescue reportedly received nearly 950 calls in 24 hours related to wildfires. The dry spell broke at the end of the month, with 28.8mm of rain at St Athan, Eastern Glamorgan, on 28th being the wettest place in a 24-hour period in the UK. With just 19% of average rainfall for April but 150% of average sunshine, it was the sunniest April since records began in 1919.

The cold weather continued into **May**, with thermometers falling to -6.1°C at St Harmon on 2nd, the lowest anywhere in the UK that month. Heavy rain and strong winds, up to 76mph at Capel Curig, on 3rd/4th caused travel disruption, and the unsettled conditions continued through the month, with fallen trees and surface flooding through to the 21st. With 245% of average rainfall, it was easily the wettest May in Wales since records began in 1862. It remained cool everywhere, the mercury struggling to just 7.9°C at Lake Vyrnwy on 23rd. Settled weather only arrived in the final week, with Porthmadog recording 23.6°C on 30th and Aberdaron, Caernarfonshire, having 15.4 hours of bright sunshine.

June started sunny and warm, but was otherwise rather average, although there was notably little rain, with just 37% of average rainfall. There were again days with gusty winds, such as 11th when the anemometer at Capel Curig recorded a gust of 49mph. It was, however, mild with a maximum of 27.4°C at Cardiff's Bute Park, Eastern Glamorgan, on 12th. Remarkably, there was an air frost in mid-Wales around the summer solstice, with a minimum temperature of -0.5°C at St Harmon overnight on 22nd and daytime temperatures on 25th did not exceed 12.5°C at Sennybridge and Lake Vyrnwy.

The unsettled summer continued through **July,** save for a few hot days mid-month – peaking at 31.2°C at Gogerddan, Ceredigion, on 22nd – which helped to push the average temperature to 1.4°C above average, the ninth warmest July in a series from 1884. The month ended with windy conditions in the south, with widespread rain and a maximum gust of 48mph at Mumbles, Gower, on 30th, when temperatures did not not exceed 14.5°C at Lake Vyrnwy.

August remained cool, cloudy and relatively dry, although there were days of heavy rain in the north, such as 53mm at Capel Curig on 5th. There were occasional warmer days, the monthly maximum at Porthmadog reaching 24.5°C on 25th, but the uplands in particular remained cool: Libanus struggled to 13.2°C on 30th and Lake Vyrnwy only managed the same on 31st.

The first part of **September** was cloudy and quiet, improving to a brief warm spell (Gogerddan hit 30.7°C on the 7th), before a marked change to cooler rainy weather later in the month. Mean temperatures were 2°C above average, making it the third warmest September on record.

The first week of **October** saw strong winds and rain that caused surface flooding in parts of South and West Wales. Dull, wet weather continued through much of the month, especially in the northwest, but it was mild throughout, with a top temperature of 21.8°C at Hawarden, Flintshire, on 7th. The cloudy, breezy and wet conditions peaked in the final few days with 79.8mm of rain at Storey Arms, Breconshire, on 28th, flooding of the Valleys and Anglesey rail lines on 29th and fallen trees across Wales.

The first two-thirds of **November** were generally fine and increasingly mild, with modest amounts of rainfall, but the last ten days were colder and unsettled. The month went out with a bang courtesy of Storm Arwen on 26/27th, with a maximum gust of 81mph at Aberporth, Ceredigion. Although the worst effects of the cold, northerly winds were felt in northeast England, there were impacts in Wales too, and in the days that followed, huge numbers of large gulls gathered on shorelines to feed on the washed-up sealife. The cold air brought by the storm led to widespread frosts, and an overnight low of -6.2°C at St Harmon on 29th and 1cm of lying snow at Lake Vyrnwy.

Another named storm, Barra on 7 **December**, was less destructive, but centred on North Wales, with gusts of up to 86mph at Aberdaron being the highest in the UK that month. The remainder of the month was a mixture of sunshine and showers, but never really cold. The week before Christmas saw a daytime maximum of just 1.5°C at Lake Vyrnwy on 21st and overnight low of -4.8°C at Capel Curig on 22nd, but there was barely any snowfall. The final week of the year was mild everywhere: 16.5°C at Bala, Meirionnydd, on New Year's Eve was the warmest place in the UK during the month.

BIRD RECORDING IN WALES

The vast majority of records used to compile the *Welsh Bird Report*, and the data presented from national recording schemes, are collected by enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers. We sometimes lament our lack of knowledge about birds in Wales, but it is far more complete thanks to this army of unpaid expertise than it would otherwise be. The backbone of this huge collation of records is the bird clubs and the network of county bird recorders that they support. A list of bird reports appears on page 286.

The Welsh Ornithological Society uses the Watsonian vice-county system (hereafter referred to as counties for simplicity) as the basis of bird recording in Wales, illustrated on the map below (see the Ray Society, publication no. 146). This system largely matches the pre-1974 political administrative counties, but there are small differences shown on the map (p.87).

UK survey data collected in Wales

This Report uses statistics collected by three UK-, one Britain-wide and one British & Irish monitoring scheme, and one that collects birdwatchers' records from across the World.

Indices of 58 breeding species are presented from the UK Breeding Bird Survey, where the species occurs in a minimum of 30 randomly-selected 1-km squares in Wales. These squares are visited twice each spring to record all the birds present, with habitat information also collected. The Breeding Bird Survey is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is jointly funded by the BTO, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)*. The blue dots show the annual index and the red line shows the smoothed trend; the blue shading, where shown, denotes the 85% confidence intervals.

Headline figures for Wales from BirdTrack show the number of records received in Wales and, importantly, the proportion of 'complete lists' on which the species occurred during the year. BirdTrack lists convert unstructured sightings into data that can be analysed, as well as providing a platform for birdwatchers to maintain their records and submit them automatically to local bird recorders. For selected species, the reporting rates since 2012 are shown for interest. These are neither as robust nor as representative as the BBS trends, not least because of a strong geographic bias towards sites that appeal to birdwatchers and, in 2020, to gardens and urban areas. BirdTrack is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology for the BTO, RSPB, BirdWatch Ireland, Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society.

Since it was not possible to update trends of non-breeding waterbirds owing to COVID-19 restrictions on fieldwork in January/February 2021. Less than half of Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts could be completed in Wales during the crucial mid-winter period, so readers are referred to the 2020 *Welsh Bird Report* for the latest

Counties in Wales used for bird-recording. Note the zones that differ from the 'old' counties: in (a) records are maintained by Denbighshire (VC50), although it is administratively in Powys; those from (b) and (c), while historically in Breconshire, are maintained by recorders in Eastern Glamorgan and Gwent respectively; area (d), while historically in Gwent, is part of the Eastern Glamorgan recording area and follows the modern boundary of the Cardiff and Newport unitary authorities.

indices. Nonetheless, where counts were reported, these have been incorporated into the tables of site monthly maxima.

Data from the Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP), funded jointly by BTO and JNCC in association with the RSPB, was used to supplement information in bird reports.

For selected species, where an interesting change is evident, the reporting rate for gardens participating in the BTO Garden BirdWatch is cited in the text.

For non-breeding species for which casual records in Wales are considered to be representative of occurrence, records in Welsh Bird Reports since 2000 were used to assess conservation status in Birds of Conservation Concern Wales 4 (Johnstone *et al.* 2022). These data have been used to produce charts in the accounts for the first time.

We encourage WOS members and *Welsh Bird Report* readers to register on BirdTrack.net and use it whenever you are birding, and for those who are able to commit to regular surveys, to contact their **BTO.org** regional representative.

Finally, the Welsh Ornithological Society and all the county recorders in Wales support the work of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Welsh data contributes to the UK RBBP annual report published in *British Birds*. To encourage greater coverage of the rare and scarce breeding species, their current Welsh status is shown in the relevant species headers here. All breeding evidence, including the presence of birds in suitable breeding habitat at the right time of year - including non-native species - is important to the assessment of the county, Welsh and UK populations of these rarer species. A list of the RBBP species that occur in Wales is on the WOS website:

https://birdsin.wales/recording-rare-birds.

* JNCC involvement in the partnerships listed is on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Rare and scarce birds in Wales

The Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC) is part of the Welsh Ornithological Society and considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year in Wales on average, but which are not on the list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

Descriptions can be submitted via county recorders or direct to the WBRC Secretary. Forms are available from county recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the WBRC can see its deliberations on the record on request. The Committee has five voting members and a non-voting Secretary. Membership in 2021 comprised: Steve Stansfield - Bardsey (Chair), Richard Brown – Skokholm and Pembrokeshire, Chris Jones – Denbighshire, Simon

Murray – Eastern Glamorgan and Gower, Paul Roberts – Eastern Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfonshire, and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green – Ceredigion.

The full list of Category A species which the Panel considered appears in the panel below. In addition, WBRC assesses descriptions of Category B species that are not considered by the BBRC, and scarce subspecies.

Not all records of species on these lists reach the relevant committee. Records not published here may never have been submitted or still be under consideration. It is helpful if descriptions of BBRC and WBRC species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting. Records should be submitted to BBRC through county recorders or in an electronic form to secretary@bbrc.org.uk. If it is a written or typed description. please send it to the WBRC Secretary who will scan and send it on to the BBRC.
Jon Green, Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR, email: welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk.

Treatment of records in the Welsh Bird Report

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 2021 unless otherwise indicated. Bird reports were available for all recording areas except Gwent, Radnorshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire, so records submitted to BirdTrack and eBird have been used within the species accounts. Any errors or omissions will be corrected in the 2022 report.

Species names and order follow the International Ornithological Congress taxonomy, but vernacular names in English and Welsh are those that are widely used by birders. The species included in the main list are those placed by WOS in Category A (recorded in an apparently natural state in Wales at least once since 1 January 1950) or Category C (introduced species that have a self-sustaining population). A list of birds, to subspecies level, that have been recorded in Wales is available at **https://birdsin.wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee.**

The status summaries (in italics below each species name) are based on assessments published in *The Birds of Wales* (Pritchard *et al*. 2021), using population estimates in Hughes *et al*. (2020) and Eaton *et al.* (2022). The definitions used, based on records during 1990-2019, are: **Abundant, Fairly Common, Uncommon/Localised, Scarce** (more than 35 records, but fewer than five birds per year in the last few years), **Rare** (10-35 birds in past 30 years), **Very Rare** (3-9 birds in past 30 years) and **Extremely Rare** (0-2 birds in past 30 years) – see Thorpe and Stratford (2021).

Waterbird alerts for Wales are from Woodward *et al.* (2019) and trends in non-estuarine waders are from Humphreys *et al.* (2021). For some species, monthly maximum counts for the main sites are tabulated as available. These figures are the peak count recorded at

Taiga Bean Goose	Pectoral Sandpiper	Rough-legged Buzzard	Icterine Warbler
Tundra Bean Goose	Red-necked Phalarope	Bee-eater	Barred Warbler
American Wigeon	Lesser Yellowlegs	Red-footed Falcon	Rose-coloured Starling
Green-winged Teal	Ring-billed Gull	Red-backed Shrike	Bluethroat
Ring-necked Duck	Caspian Gull	Woodchat Shrike	Nightingale
Surf Scoter	White-winged Black Tern	Golden Oriole	Red-flanked Bluetail
Smew	White-billed Diver	Penduline Tit	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Alpine Swift	Wilson's Petrel	Shore Lark	Citrine Wagtail
Corncrake	Cory's Shearwater	Short-toed Lark	Olive-backed Pipit
Spotted Crake	Great Shearwater	Red-rumped Swallow	Common Rosefinch
Crane	White Stork	Pallas's Warbler	Common Redpoll
Red-necked Grebe	Glossy Ibis	Radde's Warbler	Arctic Redpoll
Stone-curlew	Night-heron	Dusky Warbler	Serin
Black-winged Stilt	Purple Heron	Greenish Warbler	Corn Bunting
American Golden Plover	Golden Eagle	Arctic Warbler	Ortolan Bunting
Temminck's Stint	Montagu's Harrier	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Cirl Bunting
White-rumped Sandpiper	Black Kite	Marsh Warbler	Little Bunting
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	White-tailed Eagle	Melodious Warbler	Rustic Bunting

Scarce subspecies are considered on the same basis, i.e. all those occurring on average five times or fewer annually. Examples considered by the WBRC are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*	Little Auk – *polaris*	Coal Tit – *ater*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*	Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*	Jay – *glandarius*
Common Guillemot – *hyperborean*	Grey-headed Wagtail – *thunbergi*	Jackdaw – *monedula*
Razorbill – *torda*	Treecreeper – *familaris*	Bullfinch – *pyrrhula*

each site in that month and do not represent coordinated counts on a single day. Some overlap may therefore occur, as birds move between sites. For some wildfowl, the numbers of breeding pairs are assessed by the number of males present during the breeding season.

WOS and county bird recorders have formally agreed the adoption of county names in both Welsh and English languages, which are shown on the website birdsin.wales. These reflect local usage, even though they vary in their use of the '-shire' suffix. These names are shown on the map on page 87, but for conciseness, the systematic list uses shortened forms (e.g. Brecon, not Breconshire).

Records from GLAMORGAN are split into E.GLAMORGAN and GOWER. Where sites border two vice-counties (mostly estuaries), records are shown based on the county from which they were seen, unless they were reported from both, for example on the well-watched Teifi estuary where birds are frequently reported from both Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion, so records are shown as PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION. In these instances, the maximum number/date range is reported, even if the exact dates and numbers differ slightly from each side.

Most of RSPB Conwy nature reserve is in DENBIGH, but a very small part of the reserve lies in CAERNARFON. Much of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands nature reserve is in Wirral, but this report includes records where birds were known to be in FLINT.

The records for some species are summarised to show the total recorded in each month for each county. Where a bird stays into two or more months it is recorded for each month. In tables of early and late migrants, the most extreme date in Wales is shown in bold type. Where comparable counts are shown for breeding seabirds, those that are lower in the current year are shaded grey.

The conservation status of each species in Wales is noted as Red, Amber or Green species of conservation concern in Wales, from Johnstone *et al.* (2022), with most recent changes shown.

It is the policy of the Society NOT TO PUBLISH in this Report any records of species on the list of the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) or of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee unless that record has been considered and accepted by the BBRC or WBRC. Where a species is on one of these lists, this is noted in the comment on status. All records have been accepted by the relevant body unless specifically stated otherwise.

Abbreviations used in the report:

AOL	Adults on Land
AON	Apparently Occupied Nests
AOS	Apparently Occupied Sites
asl	above sea level
CP	Country Park
CQNR	Connah's Quay Nature Reserve
est.	estuary
GC	Golf course
GP	Gravel Pit
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
NNR	National Nature Reserve (designated)
P	Species present (in tables)
Pt	Point
R.	River
Res.	Reservoir
RG	Ringing Group
WP	Water Park
WTW	Water Treatment Works

Birds are aged according to their calendar year, as transcribed in the table below.

Welsh Bird Report description	Non-calendar description
Juvenile	Used only in relation to birds at nest/colony
1CY	Juvenile, first-winter (to 31 Dec.)
2CY	1st-winter (from 1 Jan.), 1st -summer, 2nd-winter (to 31 Dec.)
3CY	2nd-winter (from 1 Jan.), 2nd-summer, 3rd-winter (to 31 Dec.)

RECORDS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

In addition to the systematic list for 2021, attention is drawn to the following records of species accepted by the relevant rarities committee that did not occur this year, but which feature in Green *et al.* 2021:

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* GIACH MAWR: male shot near Dolgellau, MEIRIONNYDD, on 23 Aug. 1906.
Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* MORWENNOL FRAITH: Cemlyn, ANGLESEY, on 13 June 2020.
White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* BRAS GYDDFWYN: Cwrtnewydd, CEREDIGION, on 24 June 2020.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to every birdwatcher who submitted a record during 2021. This report would be nothing without you. And an even bigger thank you to the county recorders and bird report editors who compile their local reports, shared their drafts and answered my queries so promptly.

Sections of this report were compiled by Julian Hughes (geese to grebes), Rhion Pritchard (waders), Bob Haycock (seabirds), Jon Green (Glossy Ibis to falcons), Keith Noble (shrikes to Long-tailed Tit), Dr Stephanie Tyler MBE (warblers to Dipper) and Dr Richard Facey (sparrows to New World warblers). Extra information was supplied by Adrienne Stratford (Cross and Stratford Welsh Chough Project) and Merseyside Ringing Group.

Thanks also to Lee Barber (British Trust for Ornithology) for compiling the Ringing Report; to Reg Thorpe and Adrienne Stratford for updating the Welsh List on behalf of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee; and to the photographers, who are credited in the captions. Special thanks to Ian Spence for producing the maps using DMAP by Dr A.J. Morton, and for undertaking the design of the Report once again. Thanks to the secretariats of BirdTrack, the Wetland Bird Survey and the Seabird Monitoring Programme and to Aisling May at Cofnod for assistance with records in northeast Wales.

Julian Hughes, Editor.

Stonechat (Ruth Pritchard)

SYSTEMATIC LIST

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* GWYDD DDU

Regular wintering populations are found in the Burry Inlet and around the Menai Strait. Elsewhere, small numbers are recorded in winter and on passage. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	402	327
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	1%

***B.b. bernicla* (Dark-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Fol-dywyll)**

Amber WeBS alert: -36% long-term, greater than in England as a result of the main Welsh population, on the Burry Inlet, declining since the start of the 21st century.

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fell by 82% in the four years to 2019/20, to its lowest level since 1978/79. The greatest declines have been in Carmarthen Bay and the Burry Inlet, where the highest co-ordinated count was 561 on 4 March and 422 on 25 Nov., while the smaller populations in North Wales have not recovered from a decline in the first decade of the century. The count of 43 in E.GLAMORGAN was the highest count since Jan. 1987, however.

Monthly max. at the main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER									
Whiteford		257	391				126	243	320
Llanrhidian	166	260	133			4		244	30
Salthouse Pt/Crofty	378	292	23			19	62	189	230
Weobley	411	185	105					4	
CARMARTHEN									
Penclacwydd		2	61				14	47	2
Pwll	28	114	27					200	17
CAERNARFON									
Foryd			*c.*20	*c.*20			10		2+

Other large counts: E.GLAMORGAN: 43 at Gilestone/Aberthaw on 13 Feb.; FLINT: 102 at Bagillt on 27 Dec.

***B.b. hrota* (Pale-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Canada)**

The Wetland Bird Survey index reached a record high in 2019/20, with the five-year average counts on Anglesey and the Dee estuary achieving new peaks, as well as the far smaller population on the Severn estuary.

Monthly max. at the main sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE										
Cleddau estuary	50	34	49	38			2	36	50	37
CAERNARFON										
Foryd			293	320			28	380	*c.*200	224
Traeth Lafan	2	3	*c.*100	*c.*85				8	44	44
ANGLESEY										
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	494	445	260	200	2		15	264	522	225
Traeth Melynog			85	58			0	175	506	391
FLINT										
Dee estuary, inc Gronant	60		15	39	3			16	9	52

Max. counts at other sites: E.GLAMORGAN: 33 at Gilestone/Aberthaw on 4-5 Dec. was the highest count in the recording area; FLINT: 14 on Clwyd est. on 9 Jan., increasing to 31 on 25 Feb.

Approximate monthly totals of both subspecies, excluding those above:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
bernicla	6		87	5	1				1	15	135	86
hrota	18	68	249	139	20				1	29	89	408
race unknown				6					2	5	5	1

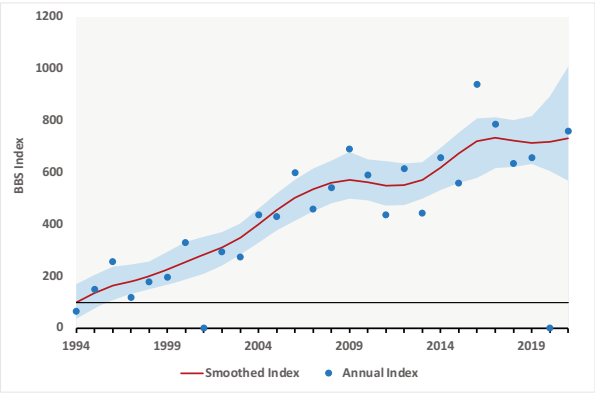
CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* GWYDD CANADA

Fairly common (8850 breeding pairs) and increasing introduced breeding resident (Category C). Large post-breeding gatherings occur.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3876	4503
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	20%

The rate of growth in breeding numbers in Wales has plateauxed in recent years (note the wider confidence intervals), but the 429% increase since 1995 is the greatest of any species monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey.

Breeding Bird Survey: Canada Goose in Wales, 1994-2021



Breeding records, presumed under-recorded: GWENT: bred at 12 sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 24 sites, probably at 34 and possibly at 38; GOWER: 10 pairs at five sites; CARMARTHEN: bred at Penclacwydd (four pairs) and Llyn Pencarreg; PEMBROKE: bred at 21 sites, incl. 11 pairs on Skomer and one on Ramsey; CEREDIGION: bred at RSPB Ynys-hir, Llyn Brianne, RSPB Dinas-Gwenffrwdd and Teifi Marshes; RADNOR: bred at Maesgwyn Farm and Llynheilyn; MEIRIONNYDD: 15 nests/broods at 12 sites; CAERNARFON: three pairs bred at Morfa Madryn; ANGLESEY: bred at Rhoscolyn, Cemlyn and RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: 17+ pairs bred at six sites; FLINT: 13 pairs bred at eight sites.

Non-breeding: In 2019/20, the Wetland Bird Survey index was at an all-time high. The high counts on the FLINT side of the Dee estuary in late 2021 were part of a site record count of 5373 birds that are believed to move from the Mersey estuary, where the July 2021 count was 11,158, after moulting (Friswell 2022).

The number of sites holding ≥300 birds was on par with the 10-year mean, but the number of sites holding ≥100 birds was the highest ever, at 70. In E.GLAMORGAN, there were record site counts at Kenfig, Ogmore est. and Rhaslas Pond.

≥300 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	346	416	251	200	277	40	59	121	145	300	179	144
Llandegfedd Res.		8		3	4	35	100	100	700			198
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	160	100	31	30	13	119	107	1	111	700	90	125
Flemingston & Llynybydderi			55	20	20					310	336	330
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	67	72	44	36	65	263	184	31	300	116	170	220
Ogmore estuary	35	30	61	15	25	11	35	350	930	620	160	132
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	500	195	204	21					3	560	946	583
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	446		7						16	413	443	438
Nevern estuary		10	8	2	12	4		130	750	48		26
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary			5			400	199	220	750	650	420	400
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi estuary	300			100	150	*c.*1100	*c.*2000	220	2280	1090	1202	400
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	445	220	200	90	30	388	335	100	21	168	300	320
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary									298	667	191	958
Mawddach estuary			92		30	105	400	60	181	367	68	314
ANGLESEY												
Llyn Coron	50	220	16	1	1	0	1	330	112	0	30	62
DENBIGH												
Dee Valley, Wrexham	185	*c.*380	*c.*33	19	8	70						200+
FLINT												
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	200+		144	18	76	126	800	400+	1500	600	1200	2500
White Sands	65+	150+			11	175	400	90	16	240	800	*c.*300
Clwyd estuary	*c.*300	296	214	144	136	177	105	*c.*340	338	143	94	184

Counts ≥300 elsewhere: GWENT: 330+ at The Warrage on 12 Sept. and 200+ on 1 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 400 at Rhaslas Pond on 29 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 300 at Sprinkle Pill on 1-2 Jan.; FLINT: 300 at Shotwick Boating Lake on 31 Dec.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* GWYDD WYRAN

A regular winter visitor to the Dyfi estuary (breeding in Cumbria). Scarce breeder, but regular at two sites since the early 21st century (Category C). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	104	113
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: CEREDIGION: 40 nests on Cardigan Island; BRECON: at least three broods at Llangorse Lake.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales was the second highest on record in 2019/20. The maximum number of the Dyfi estuary, CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD, in 2021 was lower than in the previous two years, but the peak count on the Teifi estuary, CEREDIGION/PEMBROKE, in late summer was the highest yet, suggesting a productive breeding season on nearby Cardigan Island.

Approximate monthly totals for each county:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	5			9								
E.GLAMORGAN	5	5	2							1		6
CARMARTHEN			1			4	2	2	2	1	3	3
PEMBROKE		1						55			4	
CEREDIGION					2							
CEREDIGION/PEMBROKE												
Teifi estuary/Cardigan Island	138	84			2	2	2	170	170	70	29	133
CERE/MEIR/MONT												
Dyfi estuary				1				47	230	480	536	106
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	1		30	25	30	27	46*	40	7			
ANGLESEY	18	3						5	13		2	
DENBIGH	2		1									1
FLINT			2						2			2

* colour-ringed on site that month, the flock spent the winter on the upper Severn estuary before returning to Llangorse in 2022. Others ringed by the Waterbird Colour-marking Group included three from breeding sites in Cumbria seen at Traeth Dulas, ANGLESEY, on 29 Aug. and others at RSPB Ynys-hir, CEREDIGION, during the autumn.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* GWYDD LWYD

All records relate to naturalised birds (Category C). Localised breeder (1650 pairs), mainly in the north but increasing farther south.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1918	2239
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	10%

Breeding: GWENT: at least three pairs bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Roath Park Lake and Caerphilly Castle Moat, probably at six other sites and possibly at another seven; CARMARTHEN: 12 pairs bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: bred at Landshipping and on Caldey; CEREDIGION: bred on Llyn Brianne; BRECON: probably bred at Dolymynach Res. and Garth Lake; CAERNARFON: four pairs bred at Pentir; pair bred below Sychnant Pass, Conwy; ANGLESEY: bred at eight sites; DENBIGH: bred at Fenn's & Whixall Moss, Nant-y-ffrith Res. and Cae Llwyd Res.; FLINT: six pairs bred at five sites.

2019 GWENT: at least four pairs bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), one pair at Llanwern steelworks and a pair at Llantarnam Lakeside Park, a new breeding site.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for 2019/20 was at its lowest point since 1998/99, in stark contrast to the BirdTrack reporting rate, which was 50% higher in 2019-21 than 2013-15. The gathering of 1500 geese at Llyn Alaw, ANGLESEY, in September is an island and Welsh record, surpassing 1160 at Llyn Traffwll in July 2013.

The number of sites with ≥100 birds was the highest ever.

≥100 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Wernffrwd	177	58	34	5	4	8				122		80
Gowerton saltmarsh								40		188	22	210
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	107	8	38	28	18	19	78	101	180	3	119	21
Sandy Water Park	2	32	45	19	6	102	103	11	3	4	8	32
Taf estuary			5							414	75	24
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	200	200	104	37					101	237	210	287
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	123								39	15	41	78
CAERNARFON												
Foryd			*c*.20	4	4	33	76	190	390		2	90
Traeth Lafan	*c*.30	7	10	2	10	17	36	122	22	273	173	50
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	0	126	96	89	71	735	1149	3	95	27	12	21
RSPB Cors Ddyga	*c*.250		*c*.40	78	110	41	56	170	120	266	406	60
Llyn Coron	0	18	0	1	0	0	0	160	216	0	220	78
DENBIGH												
Lleweni watermeadows			189	32	22	48	1	7		1	26	274
Dee valley, Wrexham	*c*.100	*c*.500	5	1	1							100+
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	384	334						*c*.320	400+	c.430	411	130

Counts/maxima ≥100 elsewhere: GOWER: 178 at Penclacwydd on 3 Jan.; 254 at Dan y lan saltmarsh on 8 Jan.; 187 at Llanrhidian Marsh on 29 Aug.; *c*.400 over Scurlage on 23 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: *c*.100 at Llangennech Marsh on 9 Sept. and 434 on 3 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: ≥300 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 24 Oct.; 120 at Dolydd Hafren on 7 Nov.; ANGLESEY: up to 1500 on Llyn Alaw in Sept.; 200 at Cemlyn on 22 Sept. and *c*.100 on 23 Oct.; *c*.200 at Bodedern on 24 Sept.; 660 over Mynydd Bodafon on 28 Sept.; DENBIGH: 160+ at Llyn Brenig on 16 July; 186 at Hanmer Mere on 17 Oct.; FLINT: *c*.100 at Plas Gwyn on 22 Nov.

TAIGA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* GWYDD LAFUR Y TAIGA

Rare visitor from northeast Europe and Siberia. WBRC: nine previous records.

ANGLESEY: one on the Alaw est. on 18 Feb.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* GWYDD DROETBINC

Regular on the Dee estuary (Flintshire), in growing numbers since 2010. Elsewhere, a scarce and irregular winter visitor, chiefly to North Wales. Spring and summer records relate to naturalised birds, as may some winter and autumn records. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**287**	**236**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**<1%**

The highest count on the FLINT part of the Dee est. in the first winter period was 8000 on White Sands on 24 Feb. (of a record total of almost 23,000 across the whole site). As usual, numbers in the second winter period were lower (max. 3500 from Connah's Quay NR on 23 Dec.) as birds from the estuary feed in the Dee Valley as far south as Wrexham, DENBIGH, until the end of the wildfowling season on the estuary. The largest counts here were *c*.1000 at Is-y-coed on 8 Feb. and 400+ on 31 Dec. The only other flock >100 was 156 at Glanwydden, CAERNARFON, on 20 Dec., of which up to 39 remained to the year end.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN	10	10	10			6	2		6
PEMBROKE							3	4	
CEREDIGION*	5	63	43	1				9	
MEIRIONNYDD				1			24	1	33
CAERNARFON	18	76	2	2			12	4	180
ANGLESEY	32	17	7	1		7	33		42
DENBIGH	16	55	*c*.350	2					156
FLINT	40	13	2	2				2	2

*includes records also on the Dyfi estuary in MEIRIONNYDD.

TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser serrirostris* GWYDD LAFUR Y TWNDRA

Rare visitor from northeast Europe and Siberia. WBRC: eight previous records.

GWENT: Nedern Valley and Newport Wetlands Reserve from 2021 to 11 May; CEREDIGION: two at Tanybwlch from 28 Dec. to the end of the year; DENBIGH: two at Is-y-coed/Trevalyn Meadows on 8-10 Feb.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* GWYDD DALCENWEN

Scarce winter visitor. Ceredigion and Anglesey support the only regular flocks of flavirostris. Rare elsewhere, although hard weather can result in increases in albifrons from the east. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	105	144
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

***A.a. flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcenwen yr Ynys Las)**

There has been a global decline in numbers of this subspecies, with a flyway population of just over 20,000 birds. The Dyfi estuary counts are 30% below the 10-year average, but the ANGLESEY count was the highest in recent years. However, for the first time since 2009 there were no records from other sites in Wales. Three of the Anglesey flock were GPS-tracked by BTO Cymru as part of a project to assess the effect of climate change on bird habitats around the Irish Sea (ECHOES 2021). This showed that the flock spent 95% of their time at RSPB Cors Ddyga and on pasture northeast of Llyn Alaw. The geese have rarely been recorded visually at the second area, which is the subject of outline proposals for solar farms, because it is difficult to access and so relatively undisturbed. The tagging is proving valuable in identifying important feeding areas away from the coast.

All records: CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: 15 on the Dyfi est. until 7 Feb., then 22 here until 9 April; 23 from mid-Nov. to the year end; ANGLESEY: 18 in the Cefni Valley and around Llyn Alaw in Jan.-March; one over Trearddur Bay on 2 Nov.; three over Coedana on 15 Dec.; 21 at Llyn Coron on 18 Dec.

***A.a. albifrons* (European White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcenwen Ewrop)**

The flock at Dryslwyn was the largest in CARMARTHEN since 1996, when birds wintered regularly in the Tywi valley, while the sighting in E.GLAMORGAN in January was one of the highest anywhere in Wales this century. The total seen in Wales during the year was the highest since 2011.

All records, singles unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 17-30 April; E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool/Sker Pt from Dec. 2020 to 15 April; 21 at Sker Pt on 9 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: up to two in the upper Tywi valley from 2 Jan. to 16 March; Llyn Pencarreg on 22-23 Jan.; three over Ginst Pt on 13 Nov.; 12 over Cei Cydweli on 5 Dec.; 16 at Dryslwyn on 19-27 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 1 Nov.; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 15 March; MEIRIONNYDD: one with 10 *flavirostris* on Dyfi est. on 4 Jan.; three on Dyfi est. on 3 March; DENBIGH: Afonwen quarry on 18 April; FLINT: four on east bank of Clwyd est. on 23 Dec., increasing to five from 27th to the year-end.

Subspecies not identified: CAERNARFON: one over Aberdaron on 21 Oct.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* ALARCH DOF

Localised resident (485 breeding pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3599	3979
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	17%

The Wetland Breeding Bird Survey for the UK suggests a very stable population, but there is no bespoke trend for Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate was lower in 2020 and 2021 than usual, which may reflect fewer visits to wetlands owing to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Numbers on the Dee estuary have halved since 2003 for no obvious reason and the *Breconshire Bird Report* noted far lower numbers than usual and speculated that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) may have been responsible. Mute Swan was a species that tested positive for HPAI across wide areas of Britain during autumn/winter 2021, including mortality in Powys and Anglesey (APHA 2021).

Breeding counts (not full surveys except Gower): GWENT: bred at 13 sites, probably/possibly at three others; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 25 sites (inc. nine nests in Cardiff Bay and six at Roath Park Lake), probably at eight and

possibly at three; GOWER: 13 breeding attempts, from which 48 eggs hatched from 11 nests, and 37 cygnets survived into autumn; CARMARTHEN: nine pairs bred at six sites; PEMBROKE: bred at 14 sites; CEREDIGION: bred at Cors Caron and pairs at three other sites; BRECON: 15 breeding attempts at seven sites, although productivity low, especially at Llangorse Lake where five of six nests were washed out by rising water levels; RADNOR: two broods at Llandrindod Wells lake; MONTGOMERY: seven broods on the Montgomery Canal between Aberbechan and Welshpool; MEIRIONNYDD: two nests; CAERNARFON: bred at four sites; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga and Cemlyn; DENBIGH: bred at five sites, possibly at three others; FLINT: bred at seven sites.

2019 GWENT: 16-18 broods at 16 sites.

Non: breeding: max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥40 birds at least once during the year.

≥40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
St Brides			12	45	15		2	19	25	2	46	42
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	28	42	58	58	133	158	168	124	8	76	38	44
Cosmeston Lakes CP	28	20	27	34	29	31	29	31	45	38	36	16
Roath Park Lake	67	56	P	P	88	70	78	74	76	79	74	P
The Knap lake, Barry	60		51	44	45		35	38	35	39	51	81
GOWER												
Fendrod Lake	33	29	22	22	33	45	45	55	47	33	31	35
CARMARTHEN												
Sandy Water Park	23	24	34	40	51	63	61	51	37	37	32	28
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	44		49						86	110	72	70
Pembroke Mill Pond		66	63					34	21	24	38	18
Pembroke river			1						52	13		3
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	38	23	38	57	66	176	144	55	47	35	10	5
Ffordd Fawr	12	2	18						3	8	42	48
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	7	5	3	17	37	102	149	192	185	62	11	9
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	68	18	21	21					0	22	23	4
RSPB Cors Ddyga	5		15	15	10	59	9	11	12	18	24	15
Cefni Reservoir	2	2		2	8			53	13	20	9	3
Llyn Coron	2	2	2	4	14	28	4	52	48	46	8	23
DENBIGH												
Conwy estuary			28	9	31	41	44	25	20	22	11	6
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	11	8	3	24	26	40	27	6	7	28	37	7

Counts ≥40 elsewhere: GWENT: 72 on survey of R.Usk in Feb., 66 in March and 41 in April, and 47 on R.Wye in May (Tyler and Clarke 2021); E.GLAMORGAN: 40 at R.Taff Embankment, Cardiff, on 20 Feb.

Notable were two off Bardsey, CAERNARFON, on 16 Oct. that was only the 11th island record and the first since 2016.

2019 GWENT: additional to those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

≥40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Newport Wetlands	100		5	10	4				3	26	29	34

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* ALARCH BEWICK

Irregular winter visitor in vanishingly small numbers. Red WeBS alert: -63% long-term and -72% short-term. Wales Red-listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**0**	**4**
% of BirdTrack lists	**0%**	**<1%**

A welcome return to the report for a species that drew a blank in 2020, perhaps a result of winter Covid lockdowns. However, that aside, this is the lowest total ever reported. With just a dozen in Ireland during the last International Swan Census in January 2020 and numbers down 82%

in 10 years (WWT 2021), this is now a real rarity in Wales.

FLINT: two on Shotwick Fields on 5 Jan.; five at White Sands on 27 Jan.

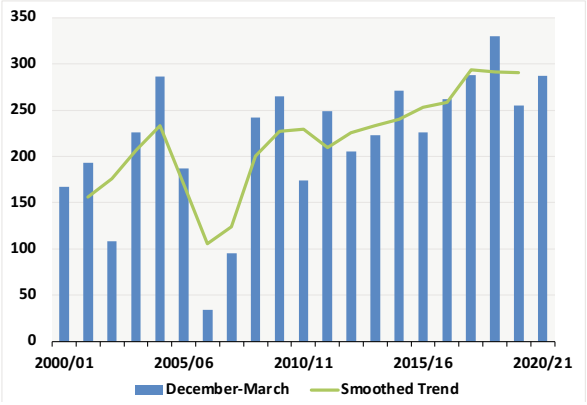
WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Regular winter visitor in small numbers to several Welsh counties (population estimate 242, <1% of the Icelandic breeding population). Red WeBS alert: -56% short-term (the greatest decline in any UK country) but +21% for long-term. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	200	141
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The Wetland Bird Survey index had fallen 60% in eight years to 2019/20, but is not very representative since flocks are often on agricultural land away from count sites. Aside from a couple of poor winters, winter counts in bird reports have increased gradually this century and in 2021 flocks of ≥10 birds were seen at 12 sites, typical for recent years.

Whooper Swans recorded in Wales, based on county max. during Dec.-March, 2001-21



Counts at regular sites:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN								
Tywi valley	71	21	53	7		6	65	69
MEIRIONNYDD								
Glaslyn valley		56	56	0		11	37	45
ANGLESEY								
central Anglesey	20	12	32	2				37
FLINT								
Dee estuary	28		26				31	30

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN		1			2	2	1
GOWER	3						2
CARMARTHEN					2	2	
PEMBROKE	10	11	14		10	8	20
CEREDIGION	13	12	10		19	14	3
BRECON		1					
RADNOR					5		
MONTGOMERY	21	1			3	13	
MEIRIONNYDD					19	5	
CAERNARFON	2		16		16	28	12
ANGLESEY	6	26	2		45	30	18
DENBIGH	1					6	6
FLINT					3		

May-Sept. records, singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 1 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 2 July.

2019 GWENT: three near Llangybi in Jan., published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019, remained until 4 Feb.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* GWYDD YR AIFFT

Introduced (Category C). Despite an increase in numbers and range in England, it remains scarce in Wales.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	114	176
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

It is hard to know how many birds were involved in the records in MONTGOMERY and FLINT (which may been some of the same individuals), but it is clear that small populations are becoming established here. The dozen in FLINT is the largest group recorded in Wales and were presumably adults and nine juveniles that fledged on the Wirral side of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

All records were single unless stated: GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 9 May; E.GLAMORGAN: long-staying bird at Aberdare Park during Jan.-May and Oct.-Dec.; PEMBROKE: Pembroke Castle on 3 Nov.; Llangwm on 30 Dec.; RADNOR: Llandrindod Wells on 2 July; MONTGOMERY: two at Coton Pools on 21 Feb.; max. four at Llyn Coed-y-dinas on 25 March, and also in May, Sept. and Oct.; two in Powis Castle Park on 12 April; Dolydd Hafren on 28 April; ANGLESEY: two at Porth Penmon on 24 Aug.; FLINT: Clwyd est. on 12 May; Connah's Quay NR from 19 June to 1 July; three on Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 18 Sept., and up to 12 in area into mid-Nov.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Localised, possibly declining, breeding resident (1250 pairs) in coastal areas. Rare passage migrant to inland counties. Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

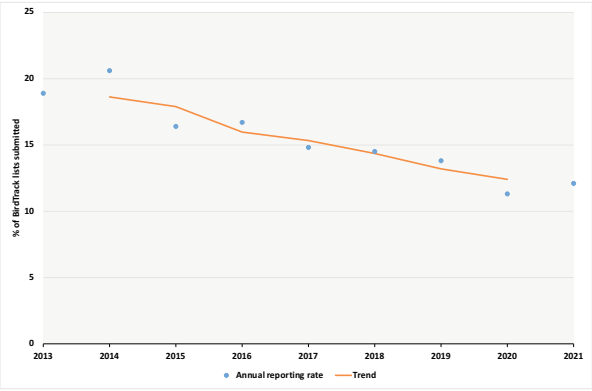
	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2515	2806
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	12%

Breeding: GWENT: probably bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Ogmore est. and Rhymney est., probably at two other sites and possibly at 10 others; GOWER: one brood each at Penclawdd and Brunel Dock, Neath est.; probably bred at Staffal Haegr, Whiteford and Landimore; CARMARTHEN: five pairs bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: in the Milford Haven Waterway and Daugleddau estuary, 14 pairs with 88 chicks (6.3/pair) and 29 non-breeders; also bred on Rivers Teifi, Nevern (five pairs) and Gann, and on Skomer (two pairs); CEREDIGION: bred at Dyfi est., Cors Fochno and Teifi est.; MONTGOMERY: two broods at Llyn Coed-y-dinas but both predated; MEIRIONNYDD: 17 young on Broadwater in June; estimated 10-11 pairs on Dwyryd est./Ynys and 3-4 pairs on Artro est.; probably bred in forest clear fell above Penmaenpool; CAERNARFON: 9-10 broods on Traeth Lafan; bred at Pwllheli; five pairs on Bardsey, but only one brood seen; ANGLESEY: 2-3 broods on Alaw est.; single pairs bred at six sites, inc. The Skerries; five pairs at Ynys Gaint in June; DENBIGH: 31 young on Conwy est. on 1 Aug.; FLINT: *c*.6 pairs bred, with up to 39 young, on Clwyd est.

Long-running monitoring of Milford Haven Waterway and Daugleddau estuary, PEMBROKE, showed an increase in the number of broods and mean brood size compared to 2020, suggesting continued modest recovery from the low in 2017. The number of non-breeding Shelducks in June was also higher than in 2020, although still low compared to the 1990s and early 2000s.

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate was 33% lower in 2019-21 than in 2013-15, aligned with the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019/20 that was at its lowest since 1984/85. However, the number of sites with ≥100 birds, in the table below, was above the 2005-20 average.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Shelduck in Wales 2013-21



Counts ≥100 in addition to the table below: PEMBROKE: 106 at Lawrenny Ferry on 21 Jan.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥100 birds at least once during the year.

≥100 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Caldicot Pill	85+	183	154	53	13	76	8	154	357	344	259	219
Collister Pill			250	95	88				14		52	
Undy			74	143	60		40	184	182	13	266	207
St Brides			61	32	30+	11	2	96	67	320	124	180
Newport Wetlands	189	187	266	267	62	104	285	544	375	350	233	80
Peterstone Wentlooge	35+	40+	80	109	39	20	36	78	150	385	40	130
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	70	110	14	25	15	1	5				4	
Rumney Great Wharf	40	30	80	40	40			7	450	300	25	
Cardiff Foreshore	37		28	20	13	1	2			250	188	40
GOWER												
Burry Inlet south		247	302							172	412	572
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	138	152	128	203	116	126	82	12	23	93	411	104
Gwendraeth estuary		100	126	100	150	8		3			67	100
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	379	40	213	4					2	9	110	397
CERED/MONT/MEIR												
Dyfi estuary	40	7	*c.*24	20	15	12	8	21	13	24	270	198
CAERNARFON												
Foryd			94	56	17	29	6	8	22	2	28	213
Traeth Lafan	663	32	137	55	22	*c.*45	21	10	91	167	299	253
ANGLESEY												
Traeth Melynog			95	38	16			0	35	63	311	408
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	165	110	95	37	4	20	*c.*12	8	6	8	61	11
Traeth Coch	210	88	77	*c.*45	*c.*20	14	2	2	7			109
Cefni estuary	52		150	2	*c.*10		P	5			*c.*600	P
DENBIGH												
Conwy estuary	2		37	160	98	24	2	32	20+		5	16
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	88	116	76	127	98	67	30	56	39	48	81	46
Point of Ayr	*c.*20	1	33	160+	26	260	11	500	1700	1500	550	293
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	63		25	70	125	500	200	230	20	40	100	50
Flint	30+		50	28	15+		46	407	260	165	98	120
Ffynnongroyw Bay	7		12	265	15	83	80	42	132	176	42	263
Gronant	56	38	127	21	35	17	20	16	18	26	17	36

2019 GWENT: replaces counts published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019

≥100 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Undy coast	175	59	55		63		177	66	215	211	191	119
Newport Wetlands	205	196	106	100	56	288	309	200	750	70	48	122
Peterstone Wentlooge	115	150	93	39	23	20	24	59	176	167	38	167

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* HWYADEN MANDARIN

Introduced (Category C). Localised breeding resident, but almost certainly under-recorded in core counties in eastern Wales.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	185	189
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The Breeding Bird Survey UK index shows a 59% increase in just five years (2015-20), and although no separate trend is produced for Wales, the direction and scale of change here is no doubt similar. Although the BirdTrack reporting rate remains below 1% and was lower than in 2020, the rate in 2019-21 was 250% higher than 2013-15. In eastern counties, records are now too numerous to merit individual mention in county reports, although a rivers' survey in GWENT in Jan.-May found up to 95 on a single visit in April, including 62 on the R.Monnow, 26 on R.Wye and two on R.Usk (Tyler and Clarke 2021).

These helped to ensure that the numbers reported across Wales were the highest ever, 167% higher than last year's record total. Breeding is greatly under-reported, with only 16-17 broods seen in 2021, typical for the last 10 years.

Confirmed breeding (single broods unless stated): GWENT: R.Usk at Llanellen; 2-3 broods on R.Monnow; GOWER: Neath Canal, near Ynys y Gerwyn (fourth county record); BRECON: on Brecon section of R.Usk for first time, below Pencelli and at Scethrog; five pairs prospected in Wye Valley, including a female that fledged young from a Tawny Owl box at Llanwrthwl; probably bred at Dolymynach Res., Ffordd Fawr and near Carnau, and possibly at Llangorse Lake; RADNOR: two broods at Brechfa Common, singles at Caban Coch Res. and Dolymynach Res.; nest in an owl box at Craig Llyn, Llanwrthwl; MONTGOMERY: nestbox at Dolforwyn, also bred at Red House and Llanmerewig Glebe MWT reserves; MEIRIONNYDD: Cwm Nant Pandy; DENBIGH: Trevor; probably bred at Llewenni Watermeadows; possibly at Erddig, Llanrwst and Trevalyn Meadows.

BTO river catchment survey

A survey by BTO Cymru of *c.*956km of rivers in Dec. 2020 observed 575 Mandarin Ducks, of which 46% were on the R.Wye and 42% on the R.Dee. In Jan. and Feb. 2021, half of the the main channels were resurveyed and one-third of their tributaries were also visited and 308 Mandarin Ducks were recorded. The main change was that additional birds were found on the Clwyd catchment when its tributaries were included. No Mandarins were recorded on the other four catchments (see Taylor *et al*. 2022 for method). The data has not been analysed to account for bird movements between visits to different sections, but it is immediately evident that numbers in the Wye and Dee and catchments were greater than reported from casual records. Considerable stretches of most rivers have no public footpath and so very limited routine bird-recording. Thanks to Callum Macgregor for providing the data for this summary.

Number of Mandarin Ducks in each catchment surveyed by BTO, and max. % on main channel in Jan.-Feb.

Catchment	Dec. 2020	Jan./Feb. 2021	% on main channel
Clwyd	24	46	34
Conwy	4		100
Dee	241	140	94
E.Cleddau	1		100
Mawddach	21	3	100
Usk	21		100
Wye	263	119	76
TOTAL	**575**	**308**	**71**

Notable counts included in the table below: GWENT: 45 on R.Monnow near Part y Seal on 1 Sept.; 51 on R.Wye, upstream from Whitebrook, on 17 Dec.; BRECON: 33 at Dolymynach Res. on 3 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 22 at Lake Vyrnwy on 29 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 31 on R.Wnion, Dolgellau, on 1 Jan. was a county record; DENBIGH: 28 on R.Dee below Froncysyllte on 26 May.

Records from county bird reports where provided (*others from BirdTrack/eBird)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT*	80	123	87	98	26		1	2	45	10	3	63
E. GLAMORGAN	1	1							1	1	1	2
GOWER	5	1	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
CARMARTHEN	10			1	1					1		
PEMBROKE		1	1	1						1		
CEREDIGION	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	1		
BRECON**	1	5	23	9	15	3	2	1	2	28	34	7
RADNOR*		9	4	11	20	2	15	5		2	33	
MONTGOMERY	22		3	1		1	20				13	
MEIRIONNYDD	31		11		1	7			8	13		
CAERNARFON		2		2	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	2+	
ANGLESEY					1							
DENBIGH*	19	14	47	29	45	20	10	9	10	5	7	10
FLINT*	17	11	8	8	9			4		3	2	

**table does not include a wing-clipped pair released illegally at Lakeside in Sept. and present to end of year at least.

GARGANEY *Spatula querquedula* HWYADEN ADDFAIN

Recorded in small numbers on passage and occasionally breeds (9-10 confirmed records, none since 1999). RBBP: three pairs in 2020. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	107	220
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A minimum of 42 birds is the highest since 2017 (the numbers in the table below are higher as some birds occurred in more than one month) and included a juvenile at Kenfig Rivermouth reedbed, GOWER, on 13 June that is only the 10th proven breeding record in Wales, and the first since 1999. An adult had been recorded here on 25 March and two pairs were at Kenfig NNR on 29-30 April, just over the E.GLAMORGAN boundary, one of which remained to 13 May. On ANGLESEY, a male was at RSPB Cors Ddyga from 18 April to 16 May, with a female on 13 May, which qualified as possible breeding. A pair fledged four young on the Wirral part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, but very close to the border, which account for the Aug. and Sept. FLINT records in the table.

Numbers in each county:

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
GWENT		3		1	4	2		
E.GLAMORGAN	2	5	1			1		
GOWER*	1			1 juv				
CARMARTHEN		1	1					1
CEREDIGION	2							
BRECON	1							
MONTGOMERY		1						
ANGLESEY		2		2		6		
DENBIGH						1	2	2
FLINT						3	4	

*excluded from the table is a male at Gnoll Park, Neath, seen throughout 2020 and 2021, and presumed to be of captive origin.

In autumn, 1-2 were at RSPB Conwy, DENBIGH, from 26 Aug. to 23 Oct. and there were four on Cefni Res., ANGLESEY, on 16 Sept.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	2 April	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)		21 Aug.	Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	24 March	Kenfig NNR		9 Sept.	Lisvane Reservoir
GOWER	25 March	Kenfig Rivermouth		No autumn records	
CARMARTHEN	15 April	Penclacwydd		**21 Nov.**	**Penclacwydd**
CEREDIGION	31 March	Llanon		No autumn records	
BRECON	**16 March**	**Llangorse sailing club**		No autumn records	
MONTGOMERY	3 April	Llyn Coed-y-dinas		No autumn records	
ANGLESEY	18 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga		23 Sept.	Llyn Alaw
DENBIGH	No spring records			23 Oct.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	No spring records			19 Sept.	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands

The BRECON record was the earliest in the county this century, two days earlier than one in 2009. The last of the year in CARMARTHEN was the joint latest county record this century.

SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata* HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Locally common winter visitor/passage migrant and rare breeder. RBBP: three confirmed (and eight probable/possible) in 2020. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**1223**	**1210**
% of BirdTrack lists	**6%**	**5%**

Breeding: GWENT: possibly bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve; ANGLESEY: 26 males at RSPB Cors Ddyga, 11 males at RSPB Valley Wetlands, and broods seen at both; DENBIGH: possibly bred at Fenn's & Whixall Moss; FLINT: nine pairs on the Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, from which six broods totalling 32 young were seen.

Non-breeding: numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey declined over the 15 years to 2019/20, and the BirdTrack reporting rate in 2021 was slightly below the 2013-20 mean. Counts at RSPB Cors Ddyga, ANGLESEY, surpassed the site record as a result of shallow flooding across the site.

Shoveler (Bob Garrett)

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥50 birds at least once during the year.

≥50 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	95	102	130	27	8	2	9	40	78	85	116	62
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	80										30	4
GOWER												
Salthouse Pt/Pill	95	38							28	105	102	141
Wernffrwd	31	62							6	71	68	
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	24	29	19	22	8	12	14	40	73	61	63	44
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	164	216	76	56	7	10	10	9	13	20	21	67
RSPB Cors Ddyga	125	100	61	36	19	5	0	0	2	45	300	375

Counts ≥50 elsewhere: GWENT: 125 at St Brides on 7 Nov. and 102 here on 22 Dec.; FLINT: 50 at Afonwen on 1 Jan.; 54 at Gronant on 7 June; 55 at Shotton paper mill on 7 Nov.

2019 GWENT: replaces counts published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019

≥50 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Newport Wetlands	170	189	300	80	24	12	8	30	23	112	129	80
Peterstone Wentlooge/St Brides	35	70		2					42	114	79	106

GADWALL *Mareca strepera* HWYADEN LWYD

Regular but localised breeding bird since 1969 (estimated 50-100 pairs). A regular winter visitor to most counties. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**1155**	**1300**
% of BirdTrack lists	**5%**	**6%**

Breeding: min. 17 pairs was the lowest total in Wales since 2014, but it is quite likely that more of the ANGLESEY birds bred. GWENT: brood at Newport Wetlands Reserve; CARMARTHEN: bred at Penrhyngwyn Pond and Penclacwydd (12 pairs); ANGLESEY: 13 males at RSPB Cors Ddyga and 34 at RSPB Valley Wetlands (where broods seen, but no counts); DENBIGH: two broods at RSPB Conwy.

Number of sites holding ≥20 birds at least once during the year was above the 10-year mean.

≥20 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	19	12	34	26	24	31	15	40	24	36	16	33
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	20	30	26	22	9	14		20	10	15	11	20
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	57	48	38	56	69	64	42	92	60	86	78	45
Penrhyngwyn Pond				2				28	193	202		
Ffos-las	31	18	7	2							13	
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	24	12	20	7	4			1	7	10	10	0
ANGLESEY												
Cefni Reservoir	12							21	45	79	44	12
RSPB Valley Wetlands	5	124	19	53	34	40	68	70	46	26	58	23
RSPB Cors Ddyga	9		8	23	11	7	1	0	P	4	82	6
Llyn Maelog			3	*c.*10	1	0	5	7	10	25	16	1
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy			38	38	27	31	18	26	17	21	40	20
FLINT												
Shotwick/Burton Mere	53	68		14		4+		1	6	*c.*8	P	12
Shotton Paper Mill			37			6					79	2
Shotton Steelworks				5	4	6	21	36	14		7	2

Non-breeding: wintering numbers reached a new high in 2019/20, an increase of 600% in the last 25 years. The autumn counts on Penrhyngwyn Pond are notable.

Counts ≥20 in addition to those in the table: GWENT: 35 at Green Moor Pool on 15 March; 21 in the Nedern

Valley near Caldicot on 21 March; 57 at St Pierre Lake on 29 Oct. and 24 here on 20 Dec.; GOWER: 21 at Staffal Haegr on 16 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: 33 at Ashpits Pond on 31 Aug.; 26 at Dinefwr Ponds in Sept.; ANGLESEY: 24 on Twr Res. on 6 Jan.; 23 at Llyn Alaw on 24 Sept., 35 here on 3 Oct. and 70 on 6th; FLINT: 22 at Ysceifiog Res. on 8 March.

2019 GWENT: replaces counts published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019

≥50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Newport Wetlands	20	13	15	23	58	41	42	25	24	66	96	43
St Pierre Lake	4	3							21	8	7	3
Llanwern steelworks	15	46	35	11	4	5	5	40	50	36	22	12

WIGEON *Mareca penelope* CHWIWELL

Common passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor, chiefly to coastal counties. Rare breeder: five confirmed records, but none since 1978 (RBBP: one possible pairs in 2020). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**2130**	**1983**
% of BirdTrack lists	**9%**	**8%**

Breeding season: ANGLESEY: two males at RSPB Cors Ddyga in May and a female on 1 July, but no evidence of breeding; male over-summered at RSPB Valley Wetlands.

Non-breeding: numbers have remained fairly stable this century, to 2019/20. The November count at Connah's Quay NR, FLINT, constituted almost the whole Dee estuary total that month. It is believed that numbers here in autumn are post-moulting dispersal from the Mersey estuary, the only wetland in Britain that is more important for this species (Friswell 2022).

The number of sites holding ≥300 birds at least once during the year was up in 2021, after several years of lower counts.

≥300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	945	1007	673	18	4			8	77	434	564	409
GOWER												
Daltons Pt	6		111						1	396	18	100
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth estuary			18						19	421	203	50
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	1449	70	189						500	3915	6134	3560
Ford Pill	250	50								250	350	300
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	265	300	75						57	260	350	200
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi estuary	70	P	22	4					190	692	1594	2002
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary									505	64	309	554
CAERNARFON												
Foryd			90		2		5	4	940	3200	810	190
Traeth Lafan	372	67	294	19			2	34	706	2144	1071	1929
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	863	642	243						77	983	963	50
RSPB Valley Wetlands	262	59	43	1	1	0	1	0	81	0	105	628
RSPB Cors Ddyga	*c.*200	P	*c.*200	*c.*30	2	P	P	0	5	112	1000	450
Traeth Coch	*c.*100	347	113	20	P					60	P	P
Cefni estuary	449		355	P					80	110	142	111
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	298	254	290+	14			2	11	119	203	386	475
Point of Ayr	1700	880	455	14					80	119	124	800
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	76		150	30	1			20	1000	400	7000	600
White Sands	125			19					4		550	

Counts ≥300 elsewhere: GWENT: 345 at Nedern Brook, Caldicot, on 14 March; 450+ at Caldicot Pill on 11 Oct.; 424 in the Nedern Valley, near Caldicot, on 17 Nov.; 300 at Llandegfedd Res. on 19 Dec.; 310 at Mathern and 490 at St Brides on 22 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 440 at New Shipping on 10 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 350 at Porth Neigwl on 6 Jan.; 350 in the Llanengan area on 7 Nov. and 1000 here on 26 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 300+ at Silver Bay on 7 Oct.; DENBIGH: *c.*250

in the Dee Valley at Holt on 7 Jan. and 500 here on 9 Feb.

2019 GWENT: replaces counts published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019

≥300 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Newport Wetlands	1744	1486	688	15	6	9	6	14	44	330	1107	1154
Undy coast	284	310	117						10	400	110	260
Llandegfedd Res.	500	2								2	22	104
Nedern wetland	589	192	145	13						293	368	207

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* HWYADEN WYLLT

Fairly common breeding resident (4600-11,000 pairs), abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Amber WeBS alert: -43% long-term. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**7142**	**8165**
% of BirdTrack lists	**34%**	**36%**

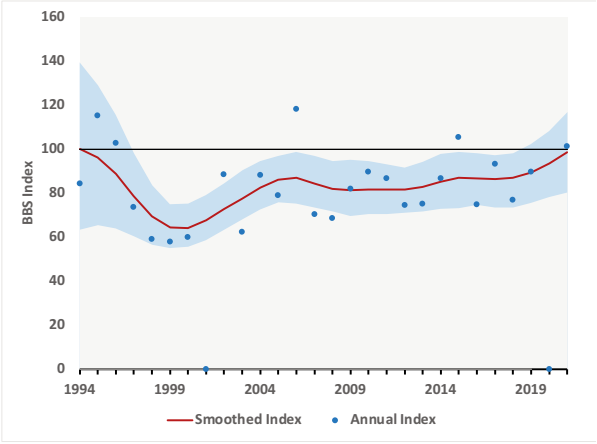
Non-breeding: there were signs of a modest recovery in the couple of years prior to 2019/20, following a long-term decline. The BirdTrack reporting trend was also somewhat higher than in 2020, although still the second lowest since 2013.

Other counts ≥200: GWENT, river survey (max.): 412 on Usk, 299 on Monnow, 278 on Wye, 158 on Rhymney and 139 on Lwyd (Tyler and Clarke 2021); GOWER: 224 on Loughor foreshore on 2 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 216 at Dinefwr Ponds in Oct.

At 20, the number of sites that held ≥200 was the highest since 2010.

≥200 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Undy			9	4	27		71	211	11	9	32	22
St Brides			69	19	14	62	91	222	210	69	164	169
Newport Wetlands	105	68	65	36	9	70	267	214	363	179	156	66
E.GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park Lake	148	110	P	8	P	77	111	80	213	187	215	40
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	278	210	196	234	194	276	163	478	304	78	377	378
Taf estuary			50						126	164	208	20
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	138		144						309	470	311	320
Pembroke Mill Pond		51	59						202	167	65	71
CERE/MONT/MEIR												
Dyfi estuary	119							108		106	205	150
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake			86			100	50	100	210	158	153	124
Ffordd Fawr	20	12	8						210	240	150	60
MEIRIONNYDD												
Mawddach estuary			23						212	89	16	68
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	6		38	12	53	120	164	371	330	118	76	64
Traeth Lafan	*c*.50	8	92	c.30	41	118	91	223	231	211	207	204
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Cors Ddyga	*c*.50		36	30	41	87	30	64	33	168	921	104
RSPB Valley Wetlands	83	72	27	41	45	42	125	77	215	148	130	166
Cefni Reservoir		c.30		2				216	309	15	25	16
FLINT												
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	25+		40	32	70	708	450	1000	300	50	120	35

Breeding Bird Survey: Mallard in Wales, 1994-2021



Breeding: after many years of a trend below par, the smoothed index has almost returned to its 1994 level.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Locally abundant winter visitor to some counties. Red WeBS alert: -52% medium term, the highest of any UK country, but +42% in long-term. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	528	571
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding: FLINT: a pair fledged three young on the Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. This is the first confirmed breeding in Wales since one on Skomer in 2002, the end of a series of nesting records from the Pembrokeshire islands on which doubt about their wild provenance has been cast (Pritchard *et al*. 2021).

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019/20 was at its lowest since 1983/84, 73% below the peak in 2005/06. The 5000 at Connah's Quay NR, FLINT, in Nov. was 84% of the whole Dee est. count that month, which remains the most important site in Britain for the species. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales in 2021 was very similar to the previous five years.

Counts ≥80 in addition to those in the table: GOWER: 230 at Salthouse Pt/Crofty on 8 Jan. and 130 here on 13 Dec.; 860 at Wernffrwd on 16 Jan.; FLINT: 181 at White Sands on 11 April.

The number of sites holding ≥80 birds at least once during the year was the highest in the last five years.

≥80 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT											
Peterstone	65	115	47	3			23	116	*c.*40	44	6
St Brides			4	4					10	198	141
E.GLAMORGAN											
Cardiff foreshore	95		80							54	20
Rhymney estuary	20	24	89	4						24	
Rumney Great Wharf	32	25	80						49	P	
GOWER											
Llanrhidian	164	53							9	4	
Dalton's Pt	12							220	105	195	88
Loughor Bwlchmynydd							72	175	34		
CARMARTHEN											
Penclacwydd	26	8	8	5			7	51	9	247	119
Gwendraeth estuary		4						9	75	200	250
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD											
Dyfi estuary	4	39	3				1	50	46	239	254
MEIRIONNYDD											
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary								3	0	60	169
CAERNARFON											
Foryd	1		4	5				110	120	50	290
Traeth Lafan	21	*c.*6					10	62	*c.*300	117	*c.*230
ANGLESEY											
Cefni estuary	421		10	P				4		2	350
RSPB Cors Ddyga	0		12	5	0		0	0	5	312	55
Traeth Melynog			0	0	0		0	0	0	96	18
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	447	196		2			3	33	41	92	182
DENBIGH											
Dee Valley, Wrexham	21	*c.*250	*c.*230								30+
FLINT											
Point of Ayr	320	6	84					220	250	*c.*150	1
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR				50	2		100	250	456	5000	50

2019 GWENT: replaces counts published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019

≥80 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Peterstone Wentlooge	91	23	4	31	1				38	75	4	112

TEAL *Anas crecca* CORHWYADEN

Small numbers (60-250 pairs) breed in the uplands, otherwise a widespread and fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2581	2685
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	11%

There were seven confirmed or probable breeding pairs. All birds in suitable habitat were: GWENT: pair at Newport Wetlands Reserve; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Nant Felen Lake, Caerphilly, from 7 May to 13 June, probably the same at Caerphilly Castle Moat on 14 June; CEREDIGION: bred at Llyn Crugnant, Cors Caron, Cors Fochno and RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: brood at Talybont Res.; present at three other sites in spring; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred on Migneint (two on 30 May and on 25 July); possibly bred at Tan yr allt; one on Tal y llyn on 18 July; CAERNARFON: probably bred near Llyn Conwy; possibly bred on Marchlyn Bach Res., above Dinorwig; ANGLESEY: 16 males at RSPB Valley Wetlands and three pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga, but breeding not suspected; DENBIGH: possibly bred at Fenn's & Whixall Moss.

2019 GWENT: four pairs in suitable breeding habitat at Newport Wetlands Reserve.

Non-breeding: Teal numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey have been fairly stable since the late 1980s. An amber WeBS alert has been issued for the Dee estuary (-25%) over the long-term, although numbers appear to have recovered recently; the September total at Connah's Quay NR, FLINT, is about 75% of the whole estuary count that month (Friswell 2022). The November count at RSPB Cors Ddyga was 60% higher than the previous site peak and an ANGLESEY record.

The number of sites holding ≥300 was 15% below the 2011-20 average.

≥300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Nedern Valley	115	105	125	45	1						375	185
Newport Wetlands	314	332	186	115	2	31	15	120	117	164	486	250
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	58	111	25	16	2	7	17	116	355	415	125	53
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	1181	266	590						241	522	1212	2867
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi estuary	90	90	2	*c*.60	1	5		39	600	656	433	457
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary									132	406	280	543
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	292	125	49	3			P		478	216	51	29
RSPB Valley Wetlands	75	114	37	48	0	0	4	4	125	93	84	340
RSPB Cors Ddyga	*c*.250	P	*c*.200	52	*c*.8	8	4	5	92	234	4408	850
FLINT												
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	115+		125	42		3	20	210	2500	500	600	250+
Flint saltmarsh	46		31	31	2			1	270	100	300	210
White Sands	500+	193		25					24		30	

Counts ≥300 elsewhere: CEREDIGION: 400 at Pont Einion on 3 Oct.; ANGLESEY: *c*.550 between Talwrn and Cors Goch on 16 Jan.; 421 on Llyn Alaw on 23 Sept. and 500+ here on 3 Oct.

2019 GWENT: replaces counts published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019.

≥300 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Newport Wetlands	140	192	168	70	4	12	31	170	300	237	412	882

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

Naturalised species, breeding locally in England (Category C), but scarce in Wales.

As well as being the highest Welsh total since 2010, it is the first time ever that a group of more than four has been recorded in Wales. GOWER: four males and a female on Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 22 Dec.; NB. a female at Gnoll Park pond on dates throughout the year was considered to have been of captive origin.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* HWYADEN BENGOCH

A declining winter visitor, chiefly to southern coastal counties, and passage migrant. Red WeBS alert: -68% short term, -76% medium and -89% long term, the highest of any UK country. Rare breeder (RBBP: two confirmed pairs, two probable/possible pairs in 2020). Wales Red-listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**440**	**373**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**2%**

Breeding: nine pairs/broods is slightly below the recent average, but some on ANGLESEY may have been missed. CARMARTHEN: three pairs bred at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: two broods on the Inland Sea mitigation pool; 10 males at RSPB Valley Wetlands (and 1-2 broods on Llyn Traffwll); seven males at RSPB Cors Ddyga, but no young seen; two pairs on Llyn Maelog on 6 May.

2019 GWENT: 1-2 broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve

Non-breeding: numbers fell by 77% between 1995/96 and 2019/20. Western and northern counties continue to record very few: none were seen in CAERNARFON, one in MEIRIONNYDD, two each in PEMBROKE, CEREDIGION and MONTGOMERY, and eight in BRECON, DENBIGH and FLINT, in all cases fewer than in 2020. By contrast, there was a slight increase in flock size in E.GLAMORGAN, including the first three-figure count since 2013.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥20 birds at least once during the year.

≥20 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	51	3						1			3	13
Cosmeston Lakes CP	41	37	15								9	16
Kenfig Pool	3	103	20	2						1		8
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	19	2	1				4	4	6	2	5	33
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir	300+	73		1				1	14	27	111	80
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	18	34	54	14	15	10	17	8	0	0	2	22

Counts ≥20 elsewhere: GWENT: 22 at Ynys-y-fro Res. on 13 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 24 on Llyn Alaw on 5 Oct.

2019 GWENT: counts not published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019

≥20 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ynysfro Reservoirs	38	4	4							4	7	12

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* HWYADEN DORCHOG

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 58 previous records.

Ten that were considered to be new arrivals, plus five that had remained from 2020. The total included a group in CARMARTHEN that is the second group of four in Wales, following a record at Heathfield GPs, PEMBROKE, from Jan. to March 2001.

E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY female at Cardiff Bay and Cosmeston Lakes CP from Oct. 2020 remained until 17 March (as a 2CY), then at Lisvane Res. from 18 March to 15 April, returning to Cardiff Bay on 26 Sept. and visiting all three sites to the year-end; 1CY female at Lisvane Res. on 21 Nov., associated with the 2CY at the three sites to the year-end; male at Kenfig Pool on 21-31 Dec.; GOWER: female at Dalton's Pt on 3 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: five in total - two males and a female at Talley from Dec. 2020 were joined by a second female on 7 Jan. and all four commuted between here and Llyn Pencarreg; three males and a female at Llyn Pencarreg on 18-26 March, when there was also a female at Talley; last sighting of a male was at Llyn Pencarreg on 25 April; PEMBROKE: 1CY female at Rosebush Res. on 23 Nov.; male at Bicton irrigation ponds from 30 Nov. to 8 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1CY at Teifi Marshes on 22 Oct.-15 Nov.; BRECON: female/1CY at Dolymynach Res. from 29 Oct. to 4 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: male at Llyn Tegid on 16 Jan., assumed returning bird from 2020; ANGLESEY: male on Llyn Maelog from 15 March to at least 16 April; male on Llyn Alaw on 4-6 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck X Tufted Duck hybrid

BRECON: suspected hybrid at Llangorse Lake on 14 Nov.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* HWYADEN GOPOG

Uncommon breeding species (765-1350 pairs). Fairly common winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2098	2357
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	10%

Breeding: GWENT: bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve, Hoop Ponds and Waun Pond, Brynmawr; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Cadoxton Ponds, probably at seven sites and possibly at another 11; GOWER: bred at Brynmill Park, Singleton Park and Tir John Pond; CARMARTHEN: pair bred at Penrhyngwyn Pond; nine pairs at Penclacwydd; MONTGOMERY: bred at Llyn Coed-y-dinas and possibly at MWT Llyn Mawr; ANGLESEY: brood at Cors Erddreiniog; three broods on Llyn Traffwll; DENBIGH: single broods at RSPB

Conwy, Afonwen and Llyn Brenig; FLINT: two broods at Rhyl Marsh Tracks and Gronant, and single broods at Brickfields NR and Connah's Quay NR.

2019 GWENT: in addition to single broods at Parc Bryn Bach and Newport Wetlands Reserve published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019, there was a second brood at Newport Wetlands Reserve and four broods at three other sites.

Non-breeding: numbers have stabilised following a long-term increase, of 24% over the 25 years to 2019/20. The 1200 at Llyn Alaw, ANGLESEY, is the largest group in Wales since 1336 were on the Welsh side of the Severn estuary in Feb. 1986.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥50 birds at least once during the year was 20% below the 2010-19 average.

≥50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Ponthir Reservoir	5				2	14	38	53	160	173	23	13
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	620	321	143	68	18	21	3	33	88	125	221	257
Cosmeston Lakes CP	347	213	38	3	1	2	11	10	12	82	157	257
Kenfig Pool	35	30	84	28	1	2			2	6	17	23
Llanishen/Lisvane Reservoirs	89	68	60	56	13	42	164	160	43	32	26	88
Roath Park Lake	146	93	35	22	1		8	5	19	27	56	219
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir	300	12		70				143	60	102	102	140
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	50	54	52	50	47	28	19	29	29	15	41	41
Sandy Water Park	51	35	23	27	4	10	10	10	34	28	28	33
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	193	187	135	10	3	6	6	1	19	200	220	240
MEIRIONNYDD												
Llyn Trawsfynydd		81	57	68	19		36	28	1	81	34	59
ANGLESEY												
Cefni Reservoir	*c.*125	*c.*120		*c.*40				27	11	2	74	187
Llyn Alaw					11				660	*c.*1200		
RSPB Valley Wetlands	79	116	96	104	57	64	88	80	39	13	2	68
Llyn Coron	4	62	0	0	0	2	5	0	19	4	P	12
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill			98			49					201	46
Shotwick Boating Lake	60+	51									P	75
Brickfields NR, Rhyl	43	33	19	19	15	8	13	15	29	49	77	55

Counts ≥50 elsewhere: FLINT: 60 at Cop Hole and Marsh on 10 Oct.

2019 GWENT: replaces counts published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019

≥50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Llandegfedd Res.	25										37	50

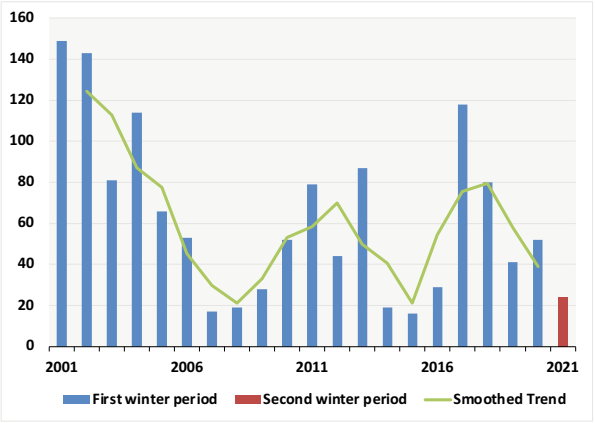
SCAUP *Aythya marila* HWYADEN BENDDU

Localised winter visitor, declining since the mid 1990s. Red WeBS alert: -54% long term. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**275**	**363**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Non-breeding: numbers in Wales counted by the Wetland Bird Survey (which may not be representative) have fallen back to their pre-1984 levels since the late 1990s. Records in bird reports illustrate a large inter-annual variation, with maximum counts usually during January-March. COVID-19 restrictions resulted in fewer records than usual in the first winter period and so the peak count was in November, when 16 were present including a female and four 1CYs at Llangorse Lake, BRECON, from 20 Oct. to 17 Nov. that appeared to be a family group, and which were joined by a male on 22-29 Oct.

Scaup recorded in Wales, based on site maxima in each winter period, 2001-21



Minimum numbers in each county.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT			1							2		
E.GLAMORGAN	1	5	1	2						1	3	5
GOWER											3	
CARMARTHEN	1	2	1						1	1		
PEMBROKE	1		1									
BRECON	1	2								6	5	
MEIRIONNYDD										1	3	1
CAERNARFON								1	1			1
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	5											1
elsewhere	1				1					1		1
DENBIGH			1	1							1	
FLINT	1											

2019 GWENT: the record published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019 does not stand, as no description was submitted.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Localised winter visitor and scarce breeder (<20 pairs). Wintering numbers fell dramatically in the early 1990s and have fluctuated since. Red WeBS alert: -63% long term and -61% short-term (amber alert -47% medium term). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**146**	**229**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: CAERNARFON: at least two broods at Aber Ogwen; ANGLESEY: bred on Puffin Island.

Non-breeding: Wetland Bird Survey counts in Wales increased in 2019/20 to the highest level since 2001/02, but there has been a big difference in trend between declines in the Burry Inlet,

Monthly maxima at the principal sites.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Whiteford		17	91	49	75	28	59		52	63	83	87
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater and coast				25	P	1	3	P	6	13	P	12
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3		*c.*30	44	25	54	57	61	29	18+	51	19
ANGLESEY												
Penmon			*c.*200	182	70	21	3	5				

GOWER/CARMARTHEN, and off Broadwater, MEIRIONNYDD, whereas numbers at Traeth Lafan, CAERNARFON/ANGLESEY, have increased since 2010/11. The March count on ANGLESEY is the highest ever in North Wales and might suggest the breeding population should be far higher, but it may be that these are staging *en route* to another site. The Calf of Man, less than 100km to the northwest of the Menai Strait, has seen its breeding population increase from the first pair in 1996 to around 70 breeding pairs.

Other notable records: GWENT: three passed Goldcliff Pill on 23 May; CARMARTHEN: 36 off Telpyn Pt on 9 April; 28 off Wharley Pt on 5 July; 18 at Cefn Sidan on 9 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 12 off Broad Haven on 28 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 1-2 at Ynyslas on several dates through the year; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 off Traeth Bach, Glaslyn est., on 7 Nov.; CAERNARFON: *c*.45 in Penrhyn Bay in Jan.; ANGLESEY: 57 off Beaumaris on 15 July; DENBIGH: 10 off Rhos Pt on 3 Nov.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

Scarce trans-Atlantic visitor. WBRC: 76 previous records.

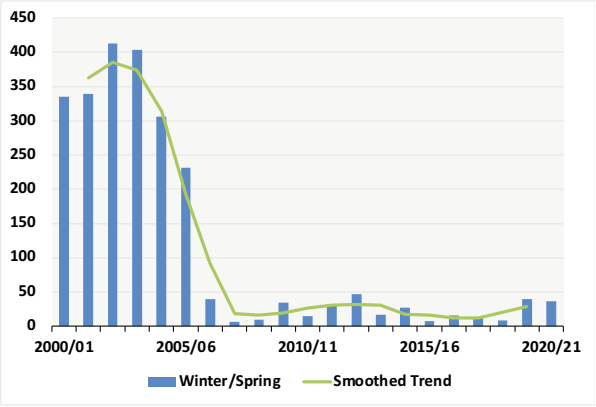
PEMBROKE: 1CY female off Broad Haven from 30 Nov. to 10 Dec.; DENBIGH: two males off Llanddulas on 5 Jan., at least one until 11th, male and female here or from Pensarn from 28 March to 15 April and male on various dates between 4 Oct. and 3 Dec. All are presumed to be returning birds from previous years.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Localised winter visitor, regular in small numbers to some coastal counties. Occasionally recorded on passage, but rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	68	44
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Velvet Scoters recorded in Wales, based on county max. during Dec.-April, 2001-21



Decreases around the British coast and the Baltic Sea have led to the international population estimate being revised down by 55%, and the species' listing as Endangered by IUCN/BirdLife International. For the second consecutive winter, a large count in a western county pushed the Wales total above its recent average. One at Lake Vyrnwy was the first MONTGOMERY record (or for any of the landlocked counties), while a June record in MEIRIONNYDD was unseasonal.

All records, singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN: female at Telpyn Pt on 7-18 March; PEMBROKE: two at Druidston on 22 Feb.; Skomer on 9 Oct.; three off Broad Haven on 22-28 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: Lake Vyrnwy on 3 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: max. 20+ at Mochras (on 5 Feb.) in first winter period; Cae Du, Llangelynin, on 28 June; Morfa Harlech on 12-14 Sept.; CAERNARFON: nine off Llanfairfechan on 12 March; present at Black Rock on 17 April; Morfa Bychan on 3 Dec.; DENBIGH: Llanddulas/Pensarn from 30 March to 15 April, and four on 3rd, then 1-2 between 4 Oct. and 22 Dec.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* MOR-HWYADEN DDU

Locally abundant coastal visitor, recorded all year round but mainly during the winter. Numbers increasing, although there was an 18% decline in Carmarthen Bay between 2009/10 and 2016/17. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	510	539
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The Wetland Bird Survey suggests a recent decline, with the annual index in 2019/20 being the lowest for a decade. Land-based counts – especially those on a fixed day each month – vary in the number of birds that are detected, however, and public availability of aerial surveys undertaken for offshore renewable projects would greatly assist wider understanding of the trends.

Monthly maxima at the principal sites.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan	150	500	250	50	16	200	1300	150	200	500		
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Pt	7		12+	11				10	*c.*30	17	100+	*c.*80
Dinas Dinlle			11	*c.*200	5							
Traeth Lafan	*c.*30		*c.*100	20	20		15		45	*c.*25	150	200+
Bardsey			4	15		11		35	29	117		
DENBIGH												
Rhos Pt-Horton's Nose	10,000	250+	2000+	*c.*1000			2	500+	200	1000+	885	4660

Other notable records: GWENT: three off Goldcliff Pt on 9 May and two here on 6 July; GOWER: *c.*270 at Oxwich Bay on 1 Jan., 120 here on 7 March; 150 in Rhossili Bay on 15 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*1500 off Morfa Bychan on 20 March; *c.*500 off Telpyn Pt on 20 and 28 March and 13 Nov.; *c.*10,000 off Ragwen Pt on 7 April; PEMBROKE: 500 off Wiseman's Bridge on 27 April; max. daily count at Strumble Head was 397 on 6 Oct. (1200 logged here through the autumn); 177 in St Brides Bay from 7 Nov. to 23 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 60 at Aberporth on 19 March; >200 sound-recorded at night over Cors Caron on 3 April; 254 off Mwnt on 5 Oct.; 410 off Borth/Ynyslas in Dec.; BRECON: R. Wye/Elan on 10 Oct.; Llangorse Lake on 11-12 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: three at Lake Vyrnwy on 3 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 120 off Artro est. in Dec. and 300 off Harlech on 14th; ANGLESEY: 358 past Cemlyn and 435 past Pt Lynas on 5 Oct., and 350 past Pt Lynas on 6th; 610 off Traeth Coch on 18 Dec.; DENBIGH: four at Aled Isaf Res. on 15 July; FLINT: two sound-recorded at night over Broughton on 7 Sept.; 100+ off Gronant on 25 Oct.

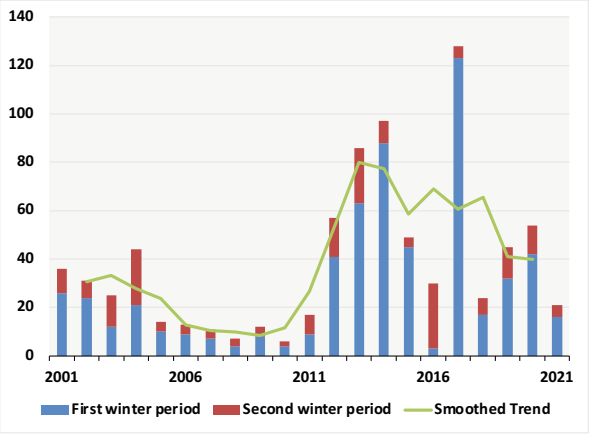
LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* HWYADEN GYNFFONHIR

Local winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**275**	**150**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

There has been a 65% decline in the Baltic Sea (since 1992/93) contributing to the species' global status as Vulnerable. The records this year constitute the lowest Welsh total since 2011. Unusually, one was inland on Cors Erddreiniog, ANGLESEY, from 6 Jan. to 18 March.

Long-tailed Ducks recorded in Wales, 2001-21



Numbers of birds in each county.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	1							
GOWER	1		1			1		
CARMARTHEN	1							1
PEMBROKE	2	1	1			1		
CEREDIGION			1					
CAERNARFON	1	2	2	2			1	6
ANGLESEY	2	2	6	1		1	1	
DENBIGH				1				2
FLINT							1	

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

Localised winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber WeBS alerts: -30% short term, -26% medium and -45% long-term. Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	582	386
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	1%

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey trend has been downward since the mid-1990s (-43% over the 25 years to 2019/20). The BirdTrack reporting rate (1.3%) was half the 2013-19 mean, doubtless affected by the winter lockdown. Nonetheless, it has become far scarcer in many counties. In Denbighshire, for example, the highest site count involved four birds and in Flintshire just three. One on Llyn Tegid, MEIRIONNYDD, on 18 May was unseasonal.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥10 birds at least once during the year.

≥10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN									
Kenfig Pool	5	2	11	2				2	5
Ogmore estuary	39	11	3					11	17
Rhaslas Pond	10	17	5					1	5
GOWER									
Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir	21	7	16				2	12	20
PEMBROKE									
Llys y fran Reservoir	16		20						5
BRECON									
Llangorse Lake	16	44	38	1		0	7	34	60+
MEIRIONNYDD									
Llyn Tegid	4	10	6	1		0	0	3	7
Llyn Trawsfynydd		14	18	0		0	0	1	9
CAERNARFON									
Traeth Lafan	53	28	26	3				4	6
ANGLESEY									
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	44	25	16			P	0	11	20
RSPB Valley Wetlands	18	36	48	4		0	0	2	19
Llyn Maelog			9	3		0	0	4	13

Counts ≥10 elsewhere: ANGLESEY: 10 at Cefni Res. on 1 Jan. and 12 here on 28 Feb.

SMEW *Mergullus albellus* LLEIAN WEN

Scarce and declining winter visitor, subject to cold weather influxes from mainland Europe. WBRC: c.365 records during 1967-2020. Wales Amber listed.

CEREDIGION: redhead on Teifi est. on 1-2 March; DENBIGH: redhead at RSPB Conwy from 29 Nov. to 5 Dec.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeds on most Welsh rivers, the breeding population is estimated at 685 pairs. Most Goosanders wintering in Wales are thought to be British breeders. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1366	1553
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

Around 24 broods were recorded, well below the recent average but with a marked increase in non-breeding counts, this suggests significant under-recording, although the *Breconshire Bird Report* commented on a notable absence of broods on the R.Wye.

Breeding: GWENT: bred on R.Usk at Llanwenarth and Gobion, on R.Monnow below Monmouth and possibly at Osbaston; GWENT/BRECON: a BTO survey of R.Usk in April/May estimated the population to be 73 birds (48 females), almost identical to the numbers estimated along the same stretch during the previous winter (Macgregor *et al*. 2022); E.GLAMORGAN: no confirmed breeding, but several parties of redheads may have fledged locally; GOWER: bred on R.Neath, at Llantwit, near Clyne, and near Resolven; possibly bred at RSPB Cwm Clydach and Aberdulais Basin; CARMARTHEN: bred at Dinefwr Park, Dryslwyn and Whitemill; CEREDIGION: broods on R.Leri and at RSPB Gwenffrwd-

Dinas; BRECON: bred on R.Usk at Sennybridge, and between Pencelli and Llansantffraed (up to three broods); brood on R.Nedd at Ton-y-gilfach; possibly bred at Dolymynach Res., Elan Village, Craig-y-nos CP, Crai Res., on R.Senni at Defynnog and on R.Usk at Crickhowell; MONTGOMERY: brood at Dolydd Hafren; MEIRIONNYDD: brood at Penmaenpool, R.Mawddach, and assumed to have bred on R.Glaslyn near Pont Croesor; 14 at Broadwater on 20 June and 29 at Pennal, R.Dyfi, on 30 June were assumed to be predominantly juveniles; CAERNARFON: bred at Llyn Padarn (two broods), Aber Ogwen and Nant Ffrancon, and present at several other sites; DENBIGH: single broods on R.Dee at Farndon and Froncysyllte; FLINT: two broods on Clwyd est.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index was at its highest ever level in 2019/20, and although no comparable data is available for 2020/21, the BirdTrack reporting rate (5.7%) was typical of recent years despite the lockdown in January-March, and 38% higher in 2019-21 than in 2013-15.

A survey of piscivorous birds was undertaken by BTO Cymru of *c*.956km of 11 Welsh rivers in Dec. 2020 and a resurvey of half the main channels, plus visits to one-third of their tributaries (*c*.900km) and adjacent stillwaters, in Jan. and Feb. 2021. During these surveys 522 Goosanders were observed, of which 4% were on estuaries and 28% were on stillwaters. The Wye catchment held 34% of this total, the Western Cleddau catchment 22%, the Dee catchment 14% and the Usk catchment 11%. Each of six other rivers held 6% or less, and there was none on the Mawddach. The Welsh wintering population was estimated to be 1460 Goosanders. (Taylor *et al*. 2022).

Number of sites holding ≥20 birds at least once during the year was the highest ever.

≥20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Ponthir Reservoir	7	27	11	2	2				2	6	6	13
Llyn Bryn Bach	14										18	28
E.GLAMORGAN												
Caerphilly Castle	29	14	14								20	22
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	19	12	6						0	1	20	25
RADNOR												
Llandrindod Lake	15										13	39
CERE/MONT/MEIR												
Dyfi estuary	3	4	2	4	3	29	11	18	7	3	1	5
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater				0		14	12	9	23	12	15	0
Llyn Tegid	3	1	6	7	5				36	15	0	2
CAERNARFON												
Foryd			5	6	4	2	6	55	11		2	2
Traeth Lafan	2		2	2	11	62	80	22	5	5	4	10+
DENBIGH												
Dee Valley, Wrexham	33	38		4	4							41
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	8	5	16	19	18	14	31	28	18	10	28	4

Counts ≥20 elsewhere: GWENT, river survey (max. counts in Feb.): 52 on R.Usk, 33 on R.Wye, 21 on R.Rhymney (and 34 on other rivers); also 38 on R.Usk surveys in March, 68 in April, and 22 in May (Tyler and Clarke 2021); 21 at Llandegfedd Res. on 11 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 27 on the Cleddau est. in Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 40 on flood water at Llandrinio on 16 Feb.; 50+ at Dolydd Hafren on 28 July and 32 on the adjacent R.Severn on 14 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 21+ on Llyn Coron on 14 Jan.; 21 off Aberlleiniog on 19 June; 100 flew into Menai Strait on 9 July; FLINT: 24 on Rhyl Marine Lake on 1 Jan., 28 here on 24 Nov. and 23 on Brickfields NR on 5 Dec. are likely to have commuted from the Clwyd est.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Localised winter visitor, mainly to the North Wales coast. Amber WeBS alerts: -26% short-term, -37% medium and -34% long-term. Small numbers breed, chiefly in the northwest – RBBP: six probable/possible in 2020. Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**671**	**649**
% of BirdTrack lists	**3%**	**3%**

Breeding season (under-recorded): CEREDIGION: bred at Llyn Brianne; CAERNARFON: bred on R.Ogwen at Talybont; ANGLESEY: crèche of 23 juv. at Traeth Dulas on 23 July; failed to breed at a west coast site for the first time since 2009.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019/20 was at its lowest since 1972/73 and 60% below the 1996/97 peak. An Amber WeBS alert (-31% medium term and -28% long term) has been issued for Traeth Lafan/Conwy Bay SPA. The mean BirdTrack reporting rate in 2019-21 was 21% lower than in 2013-15, although this may have been influenced by lockdowns in the last two years.

The number of sites holding >20 birds at least once during the year was the lowest since 2007.

>20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CAERNARFON												
Caernarfon Bay			27			3						6
Foryd	1		34+	30	2	2		1	7	6	7	3
Traeth Lafan	13	4	*c.*40	11	5	12	32	24	33	*c.*20	9	8
Penrhyn Bay	22	26	25	1							11	11
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	30	27	31						36	59	66	30

Counts >20 elsewhere: CAERNARFON: 24 in the Pwllheli area between Carreg yr Imbill and Carreg y Defaid on 30 Nov.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* HWYADEN GOCH

Introduced (Category C), former breeding species and scarce winter visitor.

GOWER: female/1CY at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 12-19 Sept. was the first record in Wales since 2018.

The UK population is believed to number just a handful, scattered around Britain. Breeding is a rare event (last in Wales in 2008), with most birds unable to find a mate (Iain Henderson, APHA, pers. comm., July 2019). The eradication programme by Defra is part of an EU-wide project to remove the threat of hybridisation to White-headed Ducks in Eurasia. In the other four countries in northwest Europe where control measures are underway, the combined population was 150-175 birds at the end of 2021, of which almost 70% were in The Netherlands.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus* GRUGIAR GOCH

Localised resident on heather uplands (835 breeding pairs). Has declined but may have stabilised in recent years. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**77**	**109**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

The BirdTrack reporting rate is low, but has increased slightly in recent years. Breeding season counts are individuals unless stated: GWENT: brood of three at Rhiw Arw, above Llanthony, on 6 June; CARMARTHEN: eight at Mynydd Du on 30 Aug.; CEREDIGION: one on Plynlimon on 7 May; BRECON: bred in Brecon Beacons (chick taken by a male Merlin); two pairs on Mynydd Llangatwg; present above Nant-ddu and Llandeilo Hill; MONTGOMERY: 143 in survey of RSPB Lake Vyrnwy on 15 April; MEIRIONNYDD: brood at Vivod; 19 territories on Tan yr Allt; fresh droppings at 13 locations over 1.5km^2 in Nant Ddu, Arenig, at two sites on Cribin Fawr in March, on the summit of Moel Cae Howel, Caletwr, on 16 April, on Pen y Bryniau, Milltir Cerrig, on 27 April and on Cadair Idris on 1-2 May; singles below Moel Fferna on 23 April, at Moel yr Henfaes and the Ranges, Trawsfynydd, on 27 April, east of Rhinog Fach on 13 May, on Foel Goch on 22 May, at Gwaun y Llwyni on 8 June, and at Foel Gron, Mynydd Dol cyn afon-Abergeirw, on 11 June; seven on Y Gadfa, Mynydd Werngawr, on 20 Aug. (also one here on 10 Dec.); CAERNARFON: female on eggs on Drum, Carneddau; one at Blaen Eidda, Migneint, on 18 May; DENBIGH: one at NWWT Gors Maen Llwyd on 7 April and 2 May; *c.*20 on Ruabon Moor on 24 April; seven at Wilderness, North Berwyn, on 25 May; FLINT: one on Penycloddiau on 24 April.

Non-breeding (max. counts): GWENT: nine on south side of Mynydd Llangatwg on 3 Jan.; one on summit of Sugar Loaf on 27 Feb. and 2+ here on 14 Sept.; one at Waunavon Bog on 20 March and two here on 4 Nov.; one on Blorenge on 21 March and 19 May; one at Capel-y-Ffin on 15 Sept.; BRECON: max. nine on Mynydd Llangatwg on 3 Jan. and four on 15 Oct.; two on Fan Frynych in early Feb.; RADNOR: five on Pool Hill on 2 Sept.; two on Beacon Hill on 9 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: droppings at Dduallt, Mynydd Penrhiw, on 12 Oct.; 1-2 pairs at Fedw Arian on 1 Dec.; CAERNARFON:

in the Carneddau, two on Moel Wnion and one above Afon Garn on 4 Feb.; one above Llyn Anafon on 22 March; DENBIGH: in the Clwydians, one at Moel y Gelli on 1 Jan. and three at Moel Llys-y-coed on 6 Sept.; max. *c*.20 on Ruabon Moor on 30 March and 32+ on 20 Nov.; Llantysilio Mountain on 27 Sept.; three at Bryn Ddu, North Berwyn, on 8 Oct.; FLINT: one on Moel Famau on 8 Nov.

2019 GWENT: 20 birds at six sites, max. 11 on The Blorenge.

BLACK GROUSE *Lyrurus tetrix* GRUGIAR DDU

Localised and declining breeding resident on moorlands of North Wales. There were 328 lekking males in the core area in 2018, the last year of full survey. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	40	53
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Co-ordinated lek survey (of males unless stated) found 105 males, but without data from Ruabon Moor, which held the highest numbers in the last survey in 2018, it is impossible to assess the trend: MONTGOMERY: two at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy (+2); MEIRIONNYDD: two on Migneint; MEIRIONNYDD/DENBIGH: 33 in North Berwyn (+2); DENBIGH: 14 in Clocaenog Forest (+3); two on Palé Moor; 22 at Coed Llandegla and Llantysilio Mountain; 30 on Moel Famau (-10)

Other breeding season records: MEIRIONNYDD: pair near Cadair Bronwen on 10 April; male on the Ranges, Trawsfynydd, on 27 April; DENBIGH: 28 at World's End on 29 May; seven in North Berwyn; 14 in Clocaenog; in the Clwydians, one at Bwlch-Pen-Baras on 23 June; FLINT: one at Penycloddiau on 16 May; one on Garth side of Moel Famau on 22 June.

Additional sites outside the breeding season: MEIRIONNYDD: two males at Liberty Hall, Rhug, on 19 Nov.; DENBIGH: in North Berwyn, one at Y Foel on 1 Jan.; three on Llantysilio Mountain on 28 Jan. and five on 14 Feb.; FLINT: six on Moel Llys-y-coed on 5 Feb. and one here on 8 Sept.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* PETRISEN

Scarce, almost extinct, breeding species. Remaining populations are probably maintained by releases. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	7	26
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records: E.GLAMORGAN: 14 in Summerhouse Pt area on 13 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: two at Dolydd Hafren on 26 April and one here on 26 May; 30 released at Bacheldre, near Churchstoke and others at Commins Coch "for conservation, not shooting"; ANGLESEY: one at Llynfaes on 14 April; four at Amlwch on 23 Sept.; two at Newborough on 25 Nov.; DENBIGH: two near Eyton House on 6 May; two at Maeshafn on 10 July; one at Llewenni Watermeadows on 11 Oct.; FLINT: one beside Clwyd est. on 9 March; one dead in Rhydymwyn Valley on 17 March; up to three at Connah's Quay NR between March and Nov.

2019 GWENT: one at Dingestow Court on 24 April.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* FFESANT

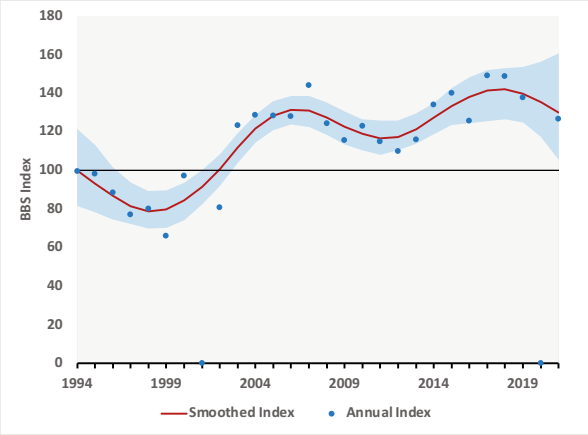
Introduced (Category C) and fairly common throughout Wales (165,000 breeding pairs). Many more are released than breed, but few records are included in county reports.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2735	2973
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	14%

A fall of 8% in the Breeding Bird Survey index (but note the wide confidence intervals on the chart overleaf) may reflect that many shoots are reported to have released fewer poults in 2020 because of uncertainties about shooting days owing to COVID-19. Nonetheless, numbers remain 45% higher than in 1994. The BirdTrack reporting rate in 2021 was marginally higher than the previous year, and for 2019-21 was 12% above the 2013-15 level.

The largest counts were from Llanddyfnan, ANGLESEY, with up to 250 in Jan. and 100 in March, and at Pennal, MEIRIONNYDD, where there were 153 on 17 Oct., 107 on 21 Nov. and 81 on 19 Dec.

Breeding Bird Survey: Pheasant in Wales, 1994-2021



QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* SOFLIAR

Rare and irregular breeding species, irruptive in some years; scarce passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

There were 16 records, just below the 1990-2020 average of 18. All records were singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: found dead in a garden on 25 June; CARMARTHEN: Pembrey CP on 4 June; CEREDIGION: Salem on 1 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Redberth on 30 May; near Upper Treleddyn Farm, St Davids, on 23 July; BRECON: Traeth Mawr on 3-6 July, probably since at least 30 June; RADNOR: Llanbadarn Fynydd on 16 June; MONTGOMERY: Llwynderw, near Llanidloes, on 17 June; MWT Glaslyn on 25 June; MEIRIONNYDD: Glan y Morfa, Ynys, on 2-3 June; Glaslyn Marshes on 25 June; ANGLESEY: freshly dead south of Bryngwran on 1 June; Brynteg on 12 June; Aberffraw Common on 22-23 June and reported again on 29th; DENBIGH: Holt on 23 June; Llanfair Talhaiarn on 24 June.

2020 E.GLAMORGAN: Mynydd Eglwysilan on 9 May.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Introduced (Category C) and localised (1400 breeding pairs). Most sightings are of birds released for shooting, and there are few records of breeding.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	168	294
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

In contrast to a fall in the BBS index for Pheasant, encounters with released Red-legged Partridges by BirdTrack users increased markedly in 2021. The counties with the most records, indicating the highest levels of release, were in the Clwydian Hills and around Broughton, in FLINT, and on ANGLESEY, particularly around Llanddyfnan, where 50 were counted regularly during Jan. The highest single count was of 80 at Tre'r Ddol, CEREDIGION.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* TROELLWR MAWR

Localised summer visitor (280 males in 2004, now probably >500), mainly dependent on clearfell areas in forestry plantations. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	53	76
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Nightjars are probably under-recorded, as birders tend to visit a small number of traditional sites. Until there is a new national survey, population trends are not accurately known. The earliest record was one perched on a plastic heron at RSPB Conwy, DENBIGH, on 22 May, and the latest was at Oxwich Marsh, GOWER, on 28 August.

Breeding sites, max. per site unless stated: GWENT: five males in Cwmcarn Valley; two in Wentwood Forest; five above

Nightjar at RSPB Conwy (Jonathan Bull)

Blaenavon; two in Nant Big; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Wern Ddu; present at Abercwmboi Forest and Onllwyn; seven at Llanwonno in June and 14 here in Aug.; GOWER: up to five churring males at Crynant Forest, a male re-caught on 16 Aug. had been ringed here in 2019; four at Foel Fynyddau; single churring males at Craig Cefn Parc and Briton Ferry Wood; two males and a female at Mynydd Dinas; two churring at Cwm Philip; 1-2 at Dead Sheep Gully, Cefn Bryn, Abercreggan, Cymmer, Fairwood Common (Ilston) and Oxwich Marsh; CARMARTHEN: 10+ at Mynydd Llanybydder; three at Pen-crug-melyn plantation; up to three at Llyn Lech Owain; two males at Blaenduad plantation; two at Fforest Wood; one at Golden Grove; male near Harmon; PEMBROKE: one at Ty Rhyg; CEREDIGION: three at RSPB Ynys-hir; one at Brwyno Uchaf; one at Gors Goch (Upper Llyfnant forestry); *c*.12 territories at Cors Fochno; five territories at Cross Inn forest; one at Cefn y cnwc (Tywi Forest); BRECON: six churring males in *c*.15ha of restock plantation; two churring males at Coity Wood above Aber, at Coed y Rhaiadr near Coelbren, at Plas-y-gors and at Blaenllia above Ystradfellte; singles on disused railway line at Penwyllt, at Meity Fawr forestry, Castle Drake (Glasfynydd Forest), Pont Cwmyfedwen (Taf Fechan Forest) and Twyn Brynffaldau in Pant Mawr forestry; churring at Cwm Shenkin above Cathedine; MONTGOMERY: estimated 10-20 pairs in Dyfnant Forest and the Lake Vyrnwy area; several around Hafren Forest; singles at MWT Cors Dyfi and at Llwynderw, near Llanidloes; MEIRIONNYDD: two males and female at NWWT Gwaith Powdwr; CAERNARFON: two at Cors Bodgynydd; singles between Llanrwst and Llanrhychwyn, at Gwaun Gynfi, near Clwt-y-bont and at Hendre Cennin near Bryncir; DENBIGH: 8+ at Cyrn-y-Brain; four (two churring) at Fenn's and Whixall Moss; three at Coed Nercwys; one at Dolydd Ceiriog; FLINT: two on Nercwys Mountain.

2019 GWENT: churring males at Crosskeys (3), Coed y Llanerch and Broad Meend (2), Wentwood (1-2), Blaenavon, The Blorenge, St James Forestry, Twmbarlam, Lasgarn Wood, Blackvein, Beacon Hill (1 at each). Female flushed at Llanellen, three pairs at Hafodrynys and two pairs in the Gwyddon Valley.

ALPINE SWIFT *Tachymarptis melba* GWENNOL DDU'R ALPAU

Scarce visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 45 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one over Skokholm and then Skomer on 1 April, presumed same at Castlemartin on 2nd.

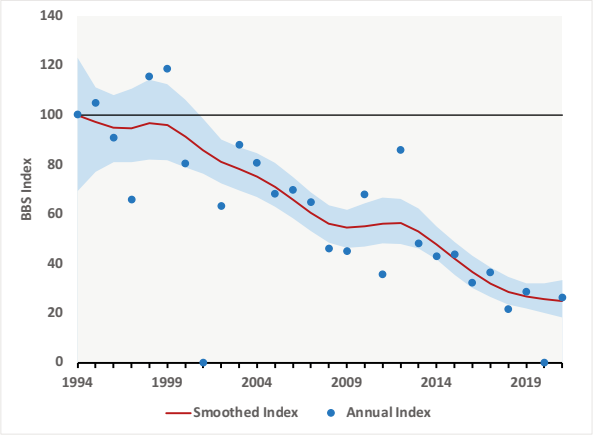
SWIFT *Apus apus* GWENNOL DDU

Localised and declining summer visitor (4100 pairs). Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1936	1725
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	6%

Although well recorded on passage and in suitable habitat at the right time of year, breeding records for this largely urban species are generally sparse. The Breeding Bird Survey smoothed index is the lowest ever (-74% since 1994), and in the top three species that have undergone the greatest declines. The BirdTrack reporting rate continues to fall, from a mean of 7.5% of lists in 2013-15 to 6.4% in 2019-21. In addition to those listed below, contributors to the RSPB's Swiftmapper project (**swiftmapper.org.uk**) recorded 202 nests at 136 sites *(cf*. 242 nests at 134 sites in 2020). Of these, 119 were in natural sites and 20 in nestboxes; 45% of sites contained a single nest, 18% contained two nests and the other 37% contained 3-20 nests. The largest group at a natural site was 12 nests at Mallwyd, MEIRIONNYDD, and the largest group of occupied boxes was four in Cowbridge High Street, E.GLAMORGAN. The greatest concentrations were in Cardiff and the GWENT valleys.

Breeding Bird Survey: Swift in Wales, 1994-2021



Breeding records in county reports, BirdTrack and eBird: GWENT: bred at White Castle; several pairs probably bred in Monmouth, Osbaston and at Neville Hall, Abergavenny, and possibly on Usk Prison and in Clevedon Road, Newport; E.GLAMORGAN: 17 nests in Cardiff, four in Cowbridge, Llanharan and Pontypridd, three in Mountain Ash, two in Penarth, Barry, Bridgend and Clydach Vale, and singles in eight communities; GOWER: bred on Sandfields Estate and town centre, Port Talbot, in Briton Ferry, Skewen and Neath; probably bred at Margam and Pontrhydyfen; CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred at Cynghordy; screaming parties over Cilycwm (10 on 18 June, 20 on 21 July), Llanelli (14 on 14 June, 17 on 9 July), Pembrey (50 on 9 July) and Burry Port (20 on 23 July); PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from just four sites; CEREDIGION: bred in Aberaeron; BRECON: bred at Sennybridge, Llanwrthwl, Brecon, and at many other sites; RADNOR: bred in Llandrindod Wells (nest still occupied on 12 Aug.); probably bred at Erwood; MEIRIONNYDD: 51-53 pairs in 14 communities, including 4-5 nests at one property in Tanygrisiau, and probably/possibly bred at 6-7 others; CAERNARFON: 10 nests in Bethesda, eight in Llanberis, two in Penrhynside; breeding confirmed or suspected at several sites in Bangor, and in 13 other communities; also prospected at Felinheli, Brynrefail, Trefriw and Llithfaen; ANGLESEY: probably bred in Plas Road, Holyhead; DENBIGH: at least 17 nests on Chirk Aqueduct; bred at single sites in Brynteg and Garden Village, Wrexham, and Colwyn Bay; FLINT: nested at Abermorddu, Plas Gwyn and at two sites in Mold.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	17 April	Ebbw Vale		**29 Sept.**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**
E.GLAMORGAN	**10 April**	**Ynysybwl**		7 Sept.	three sites
GOWER	25 April	Swansea Vale		1 Sept.	Morriston
CARMARTHEN	24 April	Llandeilo		10 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	13 April	Castlemartin Range & Teifi Marshes		16 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	24 April	Ynyslas		11 Sept.	Aberaeron
BRECON	24 April	Llangorse Lake		30 Aug.	Pontsticill
RADNOR	5 May	Cusop		20 Aug.	Rhayader
MONTGOMERY	21 April	Allt Goch,Llanidloes		4 Sept.	Newtown
MEIRIONNYDD	30 April	Cynwyd		22 Aug.	Maentwrog & Pont Croesor
CAERNARFON	28 April	Morfa Madryn		9 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	25 April	Llyn Traffwll & RSPB South Stack		23 Aug.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	24 April	RSPB Conwy		22 Aug.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	25 April	Clwyd estuary		23 Aug.	Rhuddlan

Counts ≥80: GWENT: 122 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 1 May and 82 here on 14 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 over Cardiff Bay on 8 May, 1000 here on 19 June, 500 on 8 Aug. and 100 on 10th; 150 at Merthyr Mawr on 22 June; *c*.200 feeding on flying ants over Cyncoed on 13 July;

>90 over Llanishen and Lisvane Res. on 16 July; GOWER: *c*.300 over Fall Bay on 27 June; up to 100 at Goppa Hill, Pontardulais, on 27 July; *c*.120 over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 8 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: 80 over Lake Vyrnwy on 13 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 135 east ahead of a storm front at Broadwater on 26 June; CAERNARFON: 200+ over Pensychnant on 8 May; ANGLESEY: *c*.150 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 14 May; DENBIGH: *c*.150 at RSPB Conwy on 22 May; 200 over Moel Gyw on 18 June; FLINT: 133 west over Bagillt on 8 Aug.; 100 over Flint Mountain on 11 Aug.

2019 GWENT: in addition to breeding records reported in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019, 12 AON at Monnow Bridge, Monmouth; 3 AON at St John's Church, Newport; 7-9 AON at Pontywaun; 1 AON at Markham; 14 birds at two sites in Llanthony.

PACIFIC SWIFT *Apus pacificus* COBLYN Y MOR TAWEL

Exceptional vagrant from east Asia. No previous records in Wales.

GOWER: 2CY+ at Lewes Castle/Fall Bay on 27 June was the first Welsh record. There have been 10 previous records in Britain.

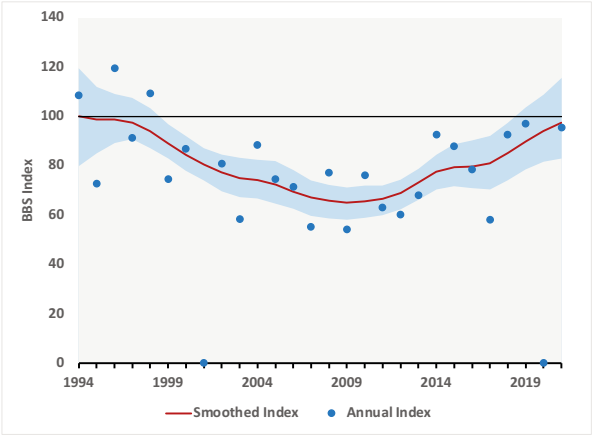
CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* COG

Localised summer visitor (1900 breeding 'pairs') but now scarce in lowlands except on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	451	614
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

A 43% increase in the Breeding Bird Survey index during the last 10 years has brought the long-term trend within 5% of its 1994 baseline. It is generally scarce in the lowlands, so this increase is assumed all to have occurred in the uplands, perhaps related to areas where sheep grazing has reduced. The BirdTrack reporting rate in 2021 recovered to a level typical of 2016-19.

Breeding Bird Survey: Cuckoo in Wales, 1994-2021



Territorial males: GWENT: two at Blorenge, Mamilhad, Blaenavon, Mynydd Llangatwg and St Mary's Vale, Abergavenny, and singles at 19 other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 'pairs' at Llanwonno and Cwm Cadlan NNR, and singles at 27 sites; GOWER: three at RSPB Cwm Clydach; 1-2 at 40 other sites; CARMARTHEN: three at Pâl y Cwrt, and two each at Mynydd Pencarreg, Cwrt y Cadno, Llyn Lech Owain and Blaen Cothi; PEMBROKE: 1-2 at 12 locations, and three on Dowrog Common; CEREDIGION: records from 14 sites (max, five at Cors Caron NNR); BRECON: recorded at up to 40 sites; RADNOR: three at Gilfach NR, singles at Trelowgoed, Pant-y-dŵr, RSPB Carngafallt, Garreg-ddu Res. and Aberedw Rocks; MONTGOMERY: three in the Bidno Valley, near Llangurig; one at Llyn Mawr; MEIRIONNYDD: singles at 45 sites, two together at nine and three at five sites; CAERNARFON: four at Crimpiau, three in Nant Ffrancon, Plas y Brenin, Nantperis, around Llanberis and at Llyn Crafnant, 1-2 at 50 other sites; ANGLESEY: singles at Aberffraw, Amlwch, Rhosneigr and Inland Sea on single dates in June; DENBIGH: four at World's End and Horsehoe Pass, three at Ceiriog forest, Penycloddiau, Gyfelia, Llyn Cyfynwy, and 1-2 at 30+ other sites; FLINT: two at Garth and singles at six other sites.

Cuckoo journeys tracked

GPS tags were attached by the BTO to two male Cuckoos in Wales in 2021. One named Daniel by his sponsor was caught at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, MONTGOMERY, on 25 June and commuted several times between here and Llanymynech Rocks, some 30km east, before starting his migration in early July. After staging for a month in northern Italy, he crossed the Sahara in mid-August, arriving in Chad on 1 September where he remained until early December. After a month in the Central African Republic, he moved to Cameroon from early January to mid-March 2022, and then the tag went silent for four weeks. On 23 April, a weak signal was received from Sicily, after which he was tracked across Europe, returning to Lake Vyrnwy on 6 May. He remained in the area, again commuting to the grassland nature reserve at Llanymynech, before starting his second autumn migration via Bedfordshire on 30 June 2022. He headed to northern Italy once again, but then moved west to France before moving south via Sardinia and then into the Sahara. The tag transmitted from the same position 330km

Cuckoo (Tony Pope)

from 7 August 2022 north of Lake Chad, where he was presumed to have perished.

The other Welsh tagged Cuckoo, named JAC, was ringed at World's End, DENBIGH, on 17 June, and left within a few days on his first autumn migration. Crossing the Pyrenees on 21 July, he headed south rapidly, through southern Algeria on 23rd and completed the Sahara crossing on 26th. From Burkina Faso, the next few days saw him pass through Benin and Niger, to northwest Nigeria on 3 August. He remained in Nigeria for a couple of months but by mid-October was in the Republic of Congo, and then at a huge wetland complex in the Democratic Republic of Congo by early November. He remained there for several weeks before moving north in early January 2022. Information from the British Trust for Ornithology, **bto.org/cuckoos**

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	9 April	Newport Wetlands		**2 Sept.**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**
E.GLAMORGAN	**31 March**	**Radyr golf course**		22 Aug.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	10 April	Llechart		11 July	Baglan Bay
CARMARTHEN	14 April	Burry Port		21 June	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	9 April	Mathry		28 Aug.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	15 April	Coed Dolgoed		28 Aug.	Cors Caron
BRECON	16 April	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl		21 July	Talybont Forest
RADNOR	29 April	Garreg-ddu Reservoir		14 June	Gilfach NR
MONTGOMERY	22 April	Hurdley, near Churchstoke		1 Sept.	near Berriew
MEIRIONNYDD	13 April	R. Dylif		22 Aug.	Pont Croesor
CAERNARFON	19 April	Rowen		30 July	Penrhyn Bay
ANGLESEY	26 April	west of Wylfa		21 July	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	15 April	Moel Arthur		1 Aug.	Nant-y-ffrith Reservoir
FLINT	23 April	Coed Pwllgwyn, Caerwys		15 Aug.	Bagillt Marshes

The first of the year in E.GLAMORGAN was two days earlier than the previous earliest in the county this century, in 2006. The last of the year in CEREDIGION was six days later than the county's previous latest this century, in 2010, and the

last in MONTGOMERY was 26 days later than one in 2014.

2019 GWENT: one at Peterstone Wentlooge on 17 July was the latest in the county.

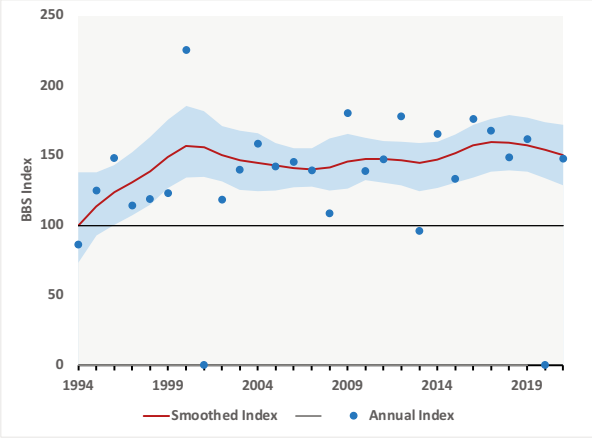
FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* COLOMEN DDOF

Fairly common resident (41,000 breeding pairs) in towns and on some sea cliffs (Category C). Greatly under-recorded. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2754	2670
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	13%

The very stable breeding population evident in the Breeding Bird Survey index contrasts with a long term increase in the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate but the BirdTrack recording rate has been falling steadily since 2016 – do fewer of us think they are worth reporting when out for the day?

Breeding Bird Survey: Feral Pigeon in Wales, 1994-2021



Counts ≥100: GWENT: 200 at Newport city centre on 4 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 275 at Albany Road, Roath, on 2 Jan., 250 here on 21 Aug. and 210 on 23 Oct.; 150 at Roath Park Lake, Cardiff, on 13 Jan., 100 here on 5 Oct. and 6 Nov., and 125 on 2 Dec.; 121 at Cardiff Bay in Nov.; GOWER: *c.*100 at Brynmill Park, Swansea, in Jan., May and Sept., 195 here on 4 Oct., *c.*160 in Nov and *c.*140 in Dec.; up to 100 in Port Talbot town centre throughout the year; PEMBROKE: 200 at Tenby Harbour on 28 March; 208 at Haverfordwest on 23 Sept.; BRECON: max. 125 around Brecon Town during the year; ANGLESEY: *c.*150 at Llanddyfnan on 17 Jan.; DENBIGH: *c.*120 at Kinmel Bay on 27 March; FLINT: up to 145 around the Clwyd est. throughout the year (max. on 13 Oct.).

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* COLOMEN WYLLT

Fairly common resident (21,500 territories), mostly in lowland areas. Wales Green listed.

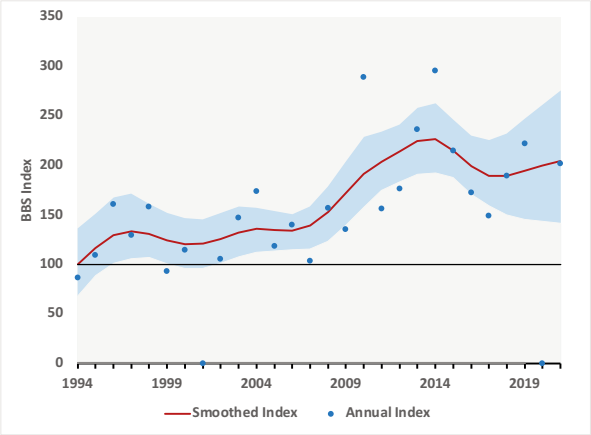
	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1107	1054
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

Following a couple of years of lower numbers, the Breeding Bird Survey trend may have resumed its long-term increase, up 71% over 25 years. The BirdTrack reporting rate has also maintained a higher level in the last couple of years. There was evidence of movements between mid Oct. and early Nov., but numbers were dwarfed by the Woodpigeon counts below.

Stock Dove (Dave Parry)

Counts ≥15: GWENT: 20 at Llanellen on 13 Feb.; 214 near Osbaston on 25 Feb.; 27 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 25 Feb., 91 here on 2 Nov. and 215 on 13th; 42 at Portskewett on 3 Nov.; 16 at Cross Ash on 5 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 59 at Lavernock Pt on 10 Oct., 19 here on 11th, 45 on 13 Nov. and 66 on 15th; 102 west over Cardiff Bay on 12 Oct., 71 here on 22nd and 430 west on 2 Nov.; 20 at Flemingston on 21 Oct. and 8 Nov.; 20 at Boverton on 26 Oct.; 32 at Kenfig NNR on 5 Nov. and 130 on 14th; 21 at Sker on 8 Nov.; 30 between Bonvilston and Pendoylan on 28 Nov.; GOWER: *c.*17 at Margam Park on 26 May; CARMARTHEN: 30 at Llansawel on 19 Jan. and 19 Feb.; 18 at Llanegwad on 13 Feb.; 15 at Cynghordy on 18 Aug.; 57 at Telpyn Pt on 3 Nov.; 24 at Penclacwydd on

Breeding Bird Survey: Stock Dove in Wales, 1994-2021



14 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 40 in Pelcomb Valley on 17 Jan.; 18 at Bastleford Cross on 15 March; 16 at St Nicholas on 27 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 28 at Salem on 24 Jan.; 15 in Aberystwyth on 9 Aug.; 36 at Llanon on 30 Oct.; BRECON: 50 on barley stubble at Pennorth on 7 Jan.; 180 on fallow at Three Cocks on 26 Jan.; 31 at Groesffordd on 6 Feb.; 25 at Glasbury on 7 Feb.; 23 at Libanus on 10 Feb.; 34 on stubble at Talyllyn on 15 March; 41 at WTSWW Y Byddwn NR on 22 July, increasing to 300 on winter oilseed rape stubble here on 5 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 26 regularly between Carno and Cefn Coch in second winter period; CAERNARFON: 15 at Wig on 1 and 3 Jan.; DENBIGH: 20 at Gresford Flash on 27 Dec.; FLINT: 28 at Old Warren Farm, Broughton, on 7 April; 21 at Babell on 29 April; up to 75 by A55 at Lloc in late April and May (max. on 11th); up to 40 at Connah's Quay NR in Aug. and Sept. (max. on 28 Aug.); *c.*35 east of Rhuddlan on 12 Oct.

2019 GWENT counts ≥15: 35 at Green Moor on 12 Sept.; 35 at Magor Pill on 8 Oct.; up to 20 at Marshfield, Pontypool, Llancayo and Magor Pill in Dec.

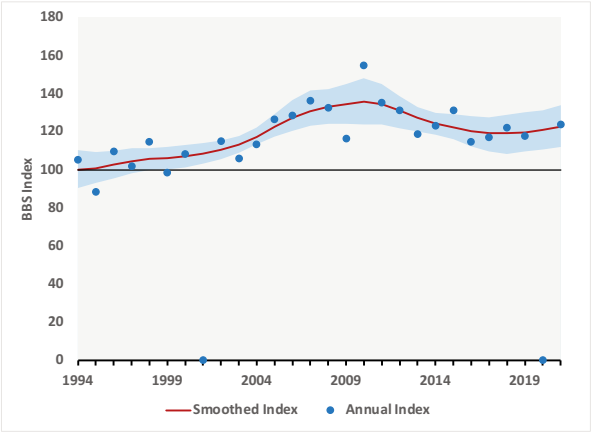
WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* YSGUTHAN

Abundant breeding species (295,000 pairs), passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	12372	11918
% of BirdTrack lists	62%	55%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has increased slowly over the last decade (+20% since 1994), very similar to its UK level.

Breeding Bird Survey: Woodpigeon in Wales, 1994-2021

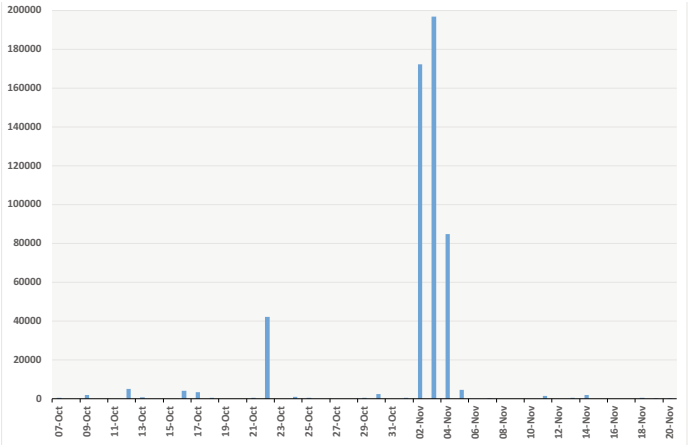


Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate returned to its pre-2020 levels, illustrating the suburban bias that year during COVID-19 lockdowns. Visits to gardens have increased over the long-term, and the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate of 79.3% in April was the highest ever.

Autumn migration: in a typical year, the small bars on the chart would have been impressive counts, but movements in southeast Wales were phenomenal. As usual, the first week of November saw the largest counts, the highest being at Portskewett, GWENT, where over 376,000 birds were counted in three days. These were the three highest visible migration counts recorded on Trektellen anywhere in the UK this autumn, and the day max. (193,920 on 3 Nov.) is the third highest ever in the UK, superceded only by other counts from Gwent in 2014 and 2017.

Large flocks or counts ≥300: GWENT: 448 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 7 Oct., 3000 here on 16th and again on 17th, 42,240 on 22nd, 48,708 on 2 Nov. and 528 on 13th; 118,860 at Portskewett on 2 Nov., 193,920 here on 3rd and 63,430 on 4th; 950 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 4 Nov. and 1090 here on 5th; 668 at Blackwood Park on 5 Nov.; 2139 at Cross Ash on 5 Nov. and 301 here on 7th; 450 near Osbaston on 18 Nov. and 300 here on 20th; E.GLAMORGAN: 2000+ over Pant Norton on 9 Oct.; 5000 west over Cardiff Bay on 12 Oct. and 600 here on 3 Nov.; 502 over Kenfig Pool on 13 Oct., 608 here on 5 Nov. and 600 on 14th; 350 over Hendre Lake on 13 Oct., 600 here on 18th, 500 on 21st and on 30th; 1000 north over Ogmore est. in an hour on 24 Oct.; 500 SW over Bute Street, Cardiff, on 30 Oct.; 500 over Lavernock Pt on 1 Nov.; 600 west over Aberthaw on 2 Nov.; 860 WSW over Leckwith on 2 Nov. and 3230 SSW on 4th; 3250 over

Woodpigeon: collated counts ≥300 birds from all counties. Note that some bars are not visible at this scale.



Llandough hospital on 2 Nov.; 16,100 SW over Llanishen and Lisvane Res. in 140 minutes on 4 Nov.; 503 over Quakers Yard on 4 Nov.; GOWER: 340 at Rhossili on 17 Oct.; 600+ over Oxwich Woods on 29 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*400 at Telpyn Pt on 30 Oct. and 2246 here on 3 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 2246 over Amroth on 3 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 481 south over Llanon on 30 Oct.; BRECON: 350 fed near Buckland Hill on 19 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 620 SW over the Great Orme on 23 March; 1006 over Aberdaron/Mynydd Mawr on 16 Oct., 450 here on 25th, 625 on 30th, 700 on 4 Nov. and 1350 on 14th; ANGLESEY: 1587 in flocks W and SW over RSPB South Stack on 11 Nov.; FLINT: 300 at Sandycroft on 31 Dec.

2019 GWENT: additional to those reported in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019, there were counts of at least 30,000 over Pontypool on 28 Oct.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* TURTUR

Extinct as a breeding species following a long decline in the late 20th century; now an uncommon passage migrant, mainly in spring. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	16	15
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Just 13 records this year, though the one in ANGLESEY in May was unusual for the duration of its stay as were the three in PEMBROKE in June.

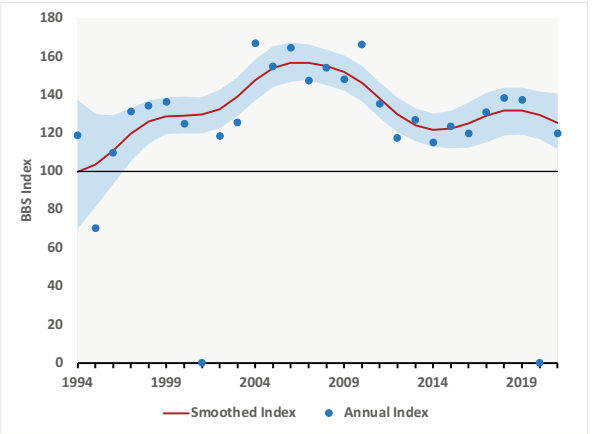
All single birds unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Merthyr Mawr on 11 May; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 31 May and 8 July; Thomas Chapel on 2 June; up to three at Brynbwa, Eglwyswrw, in June; MEIRIONNYDD: Glan Ysgethin, Talybont, on 7-8 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: Pont Croesor on 28 April; ANGLESEY: Cemaes on 6 March; for two weeks in a Brynsiencyn garden during May; Cemaes on 17-24 Sept.; Amlwch on 18 Sept.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* TURTUR DORCHOG

Fairly common resident (87,000 breeding pairs), having first appeared in Wales in 1959. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3708	3718
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	17%

Breeding Bird Survey: Collared Dove in Wales, 1994-2021



The Breeding Bird Survey index in 2021 was among the lowest this century, but the long-term trend remains 25% above the baseline. The BTO Garden BirdWatch recorded a gradual decline in reporting rate between 2006 and 2020 (the annual max.in 2020 was 49.8% in June), but a noticeable increase in 2021 (55.8% in June).

Counts ≥25: GOWER: 41 at Talbot Memorial Park on 4 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: 27 at Llanedi on 9 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 26 at Pencarnan Camp, St Davids, on 31 May; CEREDIGION: 27 at Borth on 30 Aug.;

CAERNARFON: 30 at Aberdaron on 6 June; ANGLESEY: 25 in Cemaes on 19-21 Sept.; DENBIGH: 26 at Sontley on 14 Dec.; FLINT: 26 at Cilcain on 4 Oct.; 32 at Brickfields NR on 16 Nov. and 27 on nearby Clwyd est. on 18th.

Water Rail (Bob Garrett)

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* RHEGEN Y DWR

Scarce breeder (215 territories), more commonly recorded as a passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	577	587
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Breeding season (April-July), presence unless more certain evidence provided: GWENT: six calling birds at Newport Wetlands Reserve; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Nant Felen Lake, Caerphilly, and possibly at six other sites; GOWER: probably bred at Staffal Haegr and possibly at six other sites; CARMARTHEN: four pairs at Penclacwydd; five calling at Ffrwd Fen, three at Banc y Lord and two at Glan yr Afon; PEMBROKE: breeding suspected at Teifi Marshes and Penally; CEREDIGION: present at Cors Fochno and RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: chicks heard in two reedbeds at Llangorse Lake; RADNOR: two at Pant-y-dŵr on 11 April; ANGLESEY: eight called at RSPB Cors Ddyga in May (but not surveyed); FLINT: probably bred at Gronant Dunes.

Maximum concentrations.

≥5 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands saltmarsh*	3	3	4							5	15	9
Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)	12		8						1	7	5	4
Newport Wetlands (Uskmouth)	33*	26*	29*				P	2			5	2
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd*	5	3	2	1	4	2		2	2	1	5	5
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	6
RSPB Cors Ddyga	3		3	0	8	0	0	0	2	4	17	0

*surveyed using playback response.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey suggests stability in the population over the last 20 years.

Other counts ≥5: E.GLAMORGAN: nine at Cardiff Bay on 15 Jan. and 10 here on 11 Nov.; PEMBROKE: six at Castlemartin Corse on 18 Sept.; six at Bosherston on 3 Dec.; on Skokholm, monthly peaks of two in Aug., nine on 28 Sept., 15 on 10 Oct.; 10 on 8 Nov. and two in Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 18 at Teifi Marshes on 11 Oct.; BRECON: five at Llangorse Lake western reedbeds on 12 Sept. and seven here on 9 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: five at Dolrhyd, Dolgellau, on 23 Nov.

2019 GWENT: surveyed using playback response.

≥5 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
NWR Uskmouth	50	50	29							25	69	66
NWR Goldcliff/Saltmarsh	14	4	4	3						5	10	16

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* RHEGEN FRAITH

Scarce visitor and occasional breeder. WBRC: 123 records since 1967.

CEREDIGION: one called at an undisclosed location in June.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* IAR DDWR

Fairly common breeding resident (14,500 territories) and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**3680**	**4030**
% of BirdTrack lists	**18%**	**18%**

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales was 29% below its peak in 2019/20. The BirdTrack reporting rate also suggests a decline in encounters: the 2019-21 mean was 24% below that for 2013-15, although lockdown in the last two years will have reduced the proportion of lists that contained suitable wetland habitat.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥40 birds at least once during the year.

≥40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Caerphilly Castle	12	8	12	3	3		5		2	5	45	18
Cardiff Bay*	45	54	38	9	8	10	21	29	3	10	29	11
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	34	26	26	8	32	14	21	50	59	20	65	67
PEMBROKE												
Pembroke Mill Ponds	12	15	29				12		38	49	31	7
Bosherston	5	20	27	2	3		2			62	50+	60+
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake		5	10	5			3		63	34	3	6

* includes Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve and Hamadryad.

Counts ≥30 elsewhere: GWENT: 48 on the Monmouth and Brecon Canal at Cwmbran on 14 March.

2019 GWENT: in addition to records published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019

≥40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Magor Marsh	10	3	8	2	3	6	4			6	40	8

COOT *Fulica atra* CWTIAR

Localised breeding resident (1600 pairs) and winter visitor, widespread but declining in many areas. Amber WeBS alert: -27% medium term. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**3106**	**3402**
% of BirdTrack lists	**15%**	**15%**

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fell by 49% between 2001/02 and 2019/20. The *Cambrian Bird Report* noted that the species has become scarce on the mainland in northwest Wales, with only one confirmed nest in CAERNARFON and no suspected breeding in MEIRIONNYDD. In the latter county, Coot occurred at just five sites, with a site maxima of three birds.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥100 birds at least once during the year.

≥100 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	312	182	79	57	92	128	249	318	92	302	355	325
Roath Park Lake	215	20	100	4		60	215	200	247	315	259	246
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake		188	78	22			40	63	100	184	143	62
ANGLESEY												
Cefni Reservoir	*c.*125	10		5				186	188	248	221	141
RSPB Valley Wetlands	72	103	49	57	16	19	70	68	46	20	3	45
Llyn Coron	6	22	6	1	1	3	2	23	110	0	27	63

Other counts ≥100: ANGLESEY: 320 at Llyn Alaw on 12 Sept. and *c.*400 here on 3 Oct.; DENBIGH: *c.*100 at Chirk Castle on 26 Sept.

Breeding: the only monitoring data are from Cardiff, E.GLAMORGAN, where 65 pairs fledged 42 young (0.6/pair, *cf.* 0.7 in 2019).

2019 GWENT: the figures below replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

≥100 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ynysfro Reservoirs	107	103	30	22	18	42	41	34	120	74	79	87

CRANE *Grus grus* GARAN

Scarce visitor from Europe. WBRC: 53 previous records (excluding known reintroduced birds). Bred or attempted to in south Wales in 2015-19.

Unringed, so presumed vagrant: CARMARTHEN: Pembrey Harbour on 3 April, the fifth county record; ANGLESEY: two at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 24-25 Aug.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* GWYACH FACH

Localised breeder (240-640 pairs), scarce in land-locked counties. Winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**2434**	**2468**
% of BirdTrack lists	**11%**	**10%**

Breeding season: GWENT: bred at four sites and probably at two others; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 10 sites, probably at two and possibly at two others; GOWER: bred at Penllegaer Valley Woods, Tir John Pond and Eglwys Nunydd Res. (two pairs, one of which hatched brood in Oct.); probably bred at Staffal Haegr; CARMARTHEN: bred at seven sites, including two pairs at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: bred at Denmark Farm, Blaenpennal and Maesllyn pond (Llangwyryfon), where a pair had three broods, and probably/possible at 10 other sites; BRECON: bred at Beilihelyg Res. and Llangorse Sailing Club, probably at Talybont Res. and possibly at two other sites; RADNOR: possibly bred at Llynheilyn; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Tal y llyn; CAERNARFON: nested on Llyn Coch, Moel Wnion (at 353m asl); brood on Llyn Padarn; present at Bryn Llys-Bethesda and Llyn Lockwood; ANGLESEY: bred at Cefni Res. and Llyn Traffwll, and two pairs at Llyn Parc Mawr; DENBIGH: bred at eight sites, including two pairs at Llanddulas quarry and several pairs at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: bred at six sites, including possibly for the first time at Ysceifiog Res.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has stabilised this century, following a significant increase during the 1990s. The BirdTrack reporting rate has also been very steady since 2013, notwithstanding a small drop in 2021 that probably resulted from travel restrictions in the first winter period.

Counts ≥10 in addition to those in the table: CEREDIGION: 15 at Pant pool in Aug.; CAERNARFON: 10 at Porthmadog on 3 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Beddmanarch-Cymryran in Jan.; 27 at Traeth Melynog on 22 Aug.; DENBIGH: up to 12 at Afonwen in first winter period and 10 here on 25 Aug.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥10 birds at least once during the year.

≥10 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Abercwmboi Lake	11	8	4	2	1	1			4	8	10	11
Cardiff Bay*	33	36	15					13	12	12	32	27
Cardiff Bay wetland	8		2							22	11	13
Llanishen & Lisvane Res.	20	24	17	6	2	10	26	25	36	30	25	24
Ogmore estuary	12	8	3	2	1	1		2		5	10	17
Parc Cwm Dare	7	8	2		1	1	5	4	7	14	9	9
Parc Taf Bargoed	13	13	2				4	7	8	9	12	8
Roath Park Lake	4	6						1	2	2	4	12
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir	20+							18	*c.*25	15	17	16
CARMARTHEN												
Sandy Water Park	9	8	2			1	3	14	9	13	5	3
Power Station pond	4	4	5				4	10	10	6	7	6
National Botanic Gardens					1			11	10	10	6	6
North Dock, Llanelli	11									9	9	
Ffos-las	5	8	10								2	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	20		13						4	11	13	17
Gann estuary	7	7	2				1	4	4	8	7	16
Bosherston		2								4	3	12
Pembroke Mill Pond	8	8	3						14	20	15	20
BRECON												
Talybont Reservoir			0			1	5	14	15	19	22	12
MEIRIONNYDD												
Tal y llyn	6						12	17	14	11	5	11
CAERNARFON												
Foryd			1	1	1			6	2	6	11	9
ANGLESEY												
Cefni Reservoir	1	6						49	66	63	41	27
RSPB Cors Ddyga	0		17	6	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Cefni estuary	12		2	P					2	1	5	5
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy			4	5	6	12	16	26+	23	19+	16	8
Afonwen	11	12		3	3	2		10		7	2	
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR			3	3	3	4	8	5	11	15	13	5
Shotwick Boating Lake	21	14							7+		P	40+
Ysceifiog Reservoir			6	5	6	8			8	20	17	8

*includes R.Taff at Hamadryad

2019 GWENT: the figures below replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

≥10 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Newport Wetlands	5	7	11	6	4	5	8	16	9	2	3	3
Ynysfro Reservoirs	12	16	6	4	6	10	13	31	21	26	16	16

Pairs bred at The Warrage, Ynysfro Res. (3+), The Garn and Panta Farm, Devauden.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

Localised breeding species (270 pairs). More coastal in winter and recorded on passage from several counties. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1856	1910
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	8%

Breeding: GWENT: bred at Bryn Bach Park, Brynmawr Ponds and Peterstone Wentlooge trout lake; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 11 sites, inc. eight nests at Cardiff Bay and two pairs at Cosmeston Lakes CP, and probably at three others; GOWER: breeding attempt at Fendrod Lake failed following heavy rain; CARMARTHEN: pair fledged one young at Penclacwydd, first reserve record; also bred at Sandy WP and Ashpits Pond; CEREDIGION: pair displayed at Llyn Nant yr Arian/Pond Llywernog; BRECON: three broods at Llangorse Lake; one brood at Beacons Res.; two nests at Talybont Res. failed due to falling water levels; RADNOR: brood at Llanbwchllyn; MONTGOMERY: two fledged at Llyn Coed-y-dinas; nest failed at Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: brood at Tal y llyn; two nests on Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: pair displayed on Llyn Idwal in April; pair on Llyn Elsi in June; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: bred at Llyn Brenig, Brymbo Pool and Llay Pool, and probably at five other sites; FLINT: bred at Brickfields NR, Rhyl, and at Llay pool, and probably at Fagl Lane quarry.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has remained stable for more than a decade.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥20 birds at least once during the year.

≥20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.				51				1	1		2	2
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay*	29	47	53	56	74	8	61	51	32	46	29	21
Llanishen/Lisvane Reservoirs	3	12	21	20	19	26	35	40	32	7	4	
GOWER												
Baglan Bay	215	150	42							19	207	137
Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir	31	37	35	25			22	22	9	16	27	28
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	23	24	33	
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	12		20	30	11	14	15	9	12	22	22	20
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	78	*c.*30	34	6	9	11	12	144	98	14	73	164
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	41	13	8	12	2	P	1	2	41	36	48	22
RSPB Valley Wetlands	1	7	13	18	17	22	21	24	20	9	2	2
DENBIGH												
Rhos Pt-Kinmel Bay	P	8	*c.*40	4				6		10	25	57

*some counts include Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve.

Counts ≥20 elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: max. 48 off Sker Pt on 9 Jan.; GOWER: *c.*50 at Margam Sands on 3 Jan. and 22 here on 21 Nov.; 38 at Port Talbot Harbour in Nov. and 30 in Dec.; 114 from Blackpill on 28 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 45 off Amroth on 3 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 60 off Benllech on 19 Feb.; 33 in Holyhead Bay on 9 Dec.

2019 GWENT: the figures below replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

≥20 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Llandegfedd Reservoir	10	8	18	14	15	15	33	46	50	35	10	30

Bred at Dunlop Semtex Ponds and Bryn Bach, and possibly at Cwm Hedd, Llandegfedd Res. and Pant-yr-eos Res.

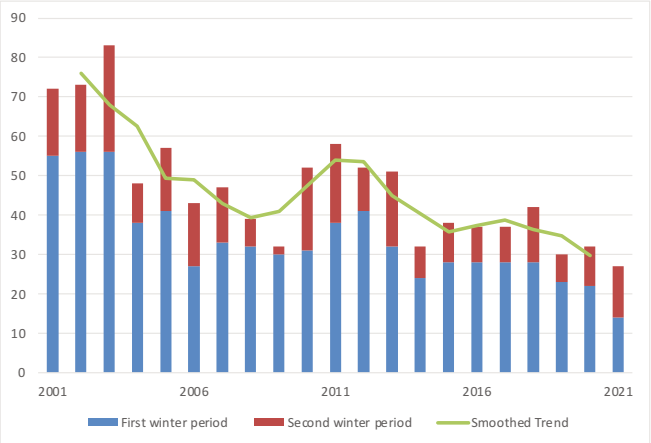
SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG

Local winter visitor, chiefly to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	207	131
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Lockdown in the first winter period will have influenced the numbers at a time of year which usually sees the most records. Nonetheless, these do seem in line with the ongoing decline since the turn of the century.

Slavonian Grebes recorded in Wales, based on site max. in each season, 2001-21



Monthly maxima at the principal sites.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Burry Inlet			2	2								2
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	2		5	1					1	1	2	1
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	4	4	4	4					0	2	3	3

Other records, singles unless stated: First winter period: CARMARTHEN: Cefn Padrig on 13 Feb.; CAERNARFON: Llandudno on 14 March and apparently a different bird on 17th; ANGLESEY: Menai Bridge on 26 Jan.

Second winter period: GOWER: Eglwys Nunydd Res. from 13 Nov. to 26 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Amroth on 24 Nov.; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 28 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Porthdinllaen on 26 Nov.; Aberdaron Bay on 29 Nov.; two off Carreg y Defaid on 30 Nov.; Llandudno on 22 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Llyn Pen-y-parc on 7 Nov.; DENBIGH: Llanddulas on 26 Dec.

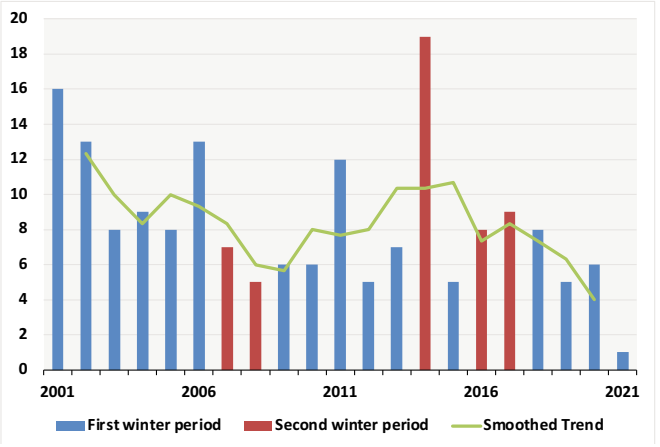
BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* GWYACH YDDFDDU

Local, but declining, winter visitor to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Formerly bred on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	73	1
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Like the previous species, travel restrictions will have influenced the number of records in the first winter period, but this was probably the worst year for decades, with just a single record, at Llanddulas, DENBIGH, on 15 March.

Black-necked Grebes recorded in Wales, based on site max. in each season, 2001-21



STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* RHEDWR Y MOELYDD

Scarce vagrant from Europe. WBRC: 48 previous records.

PEMBROKE: St Davids Airfield on 26-29 April; CAERNARFON: sound-recorded on nocturnal migration over Penrhyn Bay on 31 March.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* PIODEN Y MOR

Localised breeding species and abundant winter visitor to all coastal areas of Wales. 35% decline on non-estuarine sites (2006/07-2015/16). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	4076	4698
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	20%

Breeding: GWENT: bred on R. Usk at Llanvihangel Gobion; five nests at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) but none fledged; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Mermaid Quay, Cardiff Bay, and probably on Flat Holm; GOWER: bred on Afan est. and possibly on Neath est.; PEMBROKE: evidence of breeding at 11 sites, including 53 pairs on Skomer and 24 pairs on Ramsey (*cf*. 18 in 2020); CEREDIGION: bred at Llanrhystud, New Quay, between Aberporth and Tresaith, R. Leri, and four pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: bred at Upper Gro Common, Glasbury, and probably on the Crannog at Llangorse Lake and on R. Usk at Scethrog/ Pencelli; MONTGOMERY: bred at Llyn Coed-y-dinas and at Dolydd Hafren but latter nest flooded out; probably bred by R. Severn at Caersws and possibly at Cors Dyfi; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Morfa Mawddach; two juveniles at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 28 July may have fledged locally; possibly bred beside R. Artro and at Llyn Tegid; CAERNARFON: 54 pairs nested on Bardsey, 34.5% below the 10-year mean, from which min. 14 young fledged (0.26 chicks/pair); one pair bred at Morfa Madryn, with probable breeding at 8 other sites; ANGLESEY: 18 nests at a site in western Anglesey; at least four young fledged from four nests found on The Skerries, but not surveyed; DENBIGH: two nests at RSPB Conwy; probably bred by R. Conwy south of Tal-y-cafn; pair at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: bred beside Clwyd est., Rhyl Marine Lake and at Gronant (seven nests, from which seven probably fledged), and probably nested at Connah's Quay NR.

Non-breeding: 2019/20 saw the lowest Wetland Bird Survey value since 1997/98, down by 30% in seven years. An Amber WeBS alert (-28%) has been issued for the Dee estuary SPA, but counts here have rallied in the last couple of years and in 2021/22 were the highest for 30 years (Friswell 2022). Of the peak count of 32,051 on the Dee in Sept., more than one-third were at Point of Ayr, FLINT. Declines are evident at Burry Inlet, Carmarthen Bay, Traeth Lafan and Swansea Bay. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been falling since 2013, although travel restrictions will have suppressed the rate in the last two years.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥1000 birds at least once during the year.

≥1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Whiteford	*c.*500	*c.*500	*c.*900	1300	2030	3500	2250	10200	7400	5500	5000	4400
Penclawdd/Morfa Bacas	400	182	76	9	39	43	37	164	74	781	580	1100
Salthouse Pt/Llanrhidian	950	700	94					1900	500	1500	850	1000
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	400	700	20						750			1200
Pembrey/Burry Port				1500	200	311	16	211	115	277	4543	563
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt									1980	2191	4950	391
Gwendraeth estuary							2		10	500	150	1010
Tywi estuary		61	92	112	735	560	440	1840	354	12	1693	442
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	*c.*1000	*c.*700	690	*c.*150	66	*c.*200	930	2483	3847	4394	3052	5194
FLINT												
Gronant	386	473	900	630	400	300+	350	1500	3000	3000+	2500	2820
Point of Ayr	4500	9	2500	1200	1200	100	450	6000	11,000	10,000	5000	4000
Ffynnongroyw	802		150	2000	1500	2000	1500	3500	1000	1200	1200	4000
Mostyn	2628		953	43	25	12	50	30	20	40	800	700
Walwen		5600	42	335	350	325	760	1460	1075	1727	40	1242
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	15		260	50	12	110	69	500	700	1000	120	800
White Sands				4	4		42		700	4	2500	

Ringing: PEMBROKE: bird at Amroth on 15 Feb. had been ringed as an adult near Selfoss, Iceland, in May 2017; another ringed as a chick in SW Iceland in June 2020 was at the Gann est. on 30 April and Kilpaison in May 2021, having been previously seen at Carew/Cresswell on 12 Dec. 2020; ANGLESEY: a colour-ringed

bird at Penrhos Coastal Park on 1 Sept. had been ringed in SW Iceland on 19 May 2017.

2019 GWENT: 2-4 breeding attempts at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff, with 1+ chick fledged.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* CAMBIG

Breeds in Gwent and eastern Flintshire, elsewhere a scarce visitor. RBBP: 49 nests at one site in 2019. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	329	423
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: GWENT: 30 pairs bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) but none fledged; FLINT: 28 pairs bred on the Welsh section of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, fledging 36 young; a pair bred at Connah's Quay NR for the first time and fledged three young.

Max. monthly counts at Newport Wetlands Reserve, GWENT.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Newport Wetlands	43	41	92	114	50	14	4		5	16	7	43

Other records, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. on 6-8 March and on 30th, when also at Kenfig Pool; Llanishen Res. on 22 March; Rumney Great Wharf on 2-3 April; CARMARTHEN: two at Penclacwydd on 14 March; four at Kidwelly Quay on 4 Dec., the largest flock ever in the county, of which three remained into 2022; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 26 March, the fifth county record since 2016; CAERNARFON: two at Afonwen on 18 March; two south past Bardsey on 3 Sept, the third island record; ANGLESEY: Malltraeth Cob pool on 27 Aug.; east over Porth Cwyfan on 27 Dec., then at Braint est.; DENBIGH: two at RSPB Conwy on 5 June and four here on 2 July; FLINT: reported from April to Dec. at Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, max. 12 on 28 Aug., 15 on 29th and 11 on 1 Sept.

2019 GWENT: 20 overwintered at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); two at Redwick on 15 July.

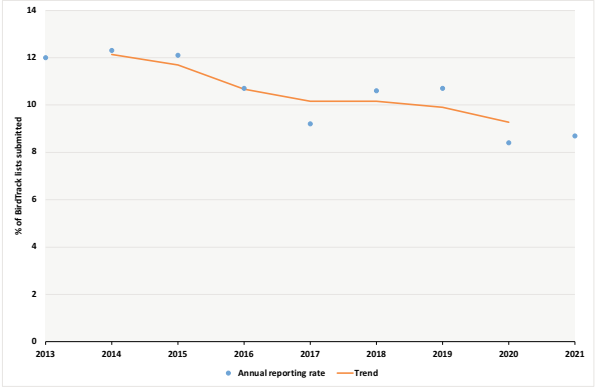
LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* CORNCHWIGLEN

Rapidly declining breeder – almost extinct in many counties. Also a winter visitor, principally in coastal areas and especially during hard weather to the east. 95% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1922	2160
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	9%

Breeding: evidence was reported from 52 sites (*cf.* 49 in 2019 and 29 in 2020). Counts where breeding was confirmed totalled min. 247 pairs at 24 sites, and where productivity monitoring was undertaken, the mean was 0.52 young fledged/pair. At many sites, cold weather in April delayed nesting (or even caused pairs to give up completely) and wet weather in May caused nests to be washed out or flooded.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Lapwing in Wales 2013-21



Breeding evidence (productivity where monitored): GWENT: 19 pairs at Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff but only one fledged (0.05/nest); probably bred at Garnlydan Res. and Llanwern pumping station, and possibly at St Brides; E.GLAMORGAN: six nests at Llanilid and 2-3 at Kenfig NNR; probably bred at Kenfig Saltmarsh, Dowlais Top and Rumney Great Wharf; GOWER: four pairs at Baglan Energy Park, two at Whiteford dune slacks and pair displayed on farmland at Upper Pitton; CARMARTHEN: *c.*15 pairs fledged *c.*20 young at Penclacwydd (1.34 young/pair); CEREDIGION: 37 pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir (productivity 0.59 chicks/pair); 1-2 pairs bred at Cors Fochno; seven at Cors Caron in April and three displayed at Talwrn, near Cross Inn, in May; BRECON: four pairs bred at Pennorth (0.5 chicks/pair); seven pairs bred at four sites around Llangorse, though only one chick known to have fledged; three pairs bred at

Bronllys; two pairs bred at Llanddew and at Felinfach; 1-2 pairs at Mynydd Illtud; pair bred at Beulah, but eggs predated; probably bred at Pencelli; MONTGOMERY: present at Cors Dyfi on 1 June; MEIRIONNYDD: two pairs bred at Penllyn (2.5 chicks/pair fledged); possibly bred at Tonfanau and at Arthog; CAERNARFON: 20 pairs fledged five young at RSPB Morfa Dinlle (0.25 fledged young/pair); breeding confirmed at three other sites; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: 10-15 pairs at Ysbyty Ifan; ANGLESEY: 43 pairs bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 16 pairs fledged five young at RSPB Valley Wetlands (0.31); birds displayed on farmland between Talwrn and Pentraeth; DENBIGH: young fledged at Penycae and near Rhosllanerchrugog; at least one brood at Tal-y-cafn reedbed; nested at Llay Pool and Old Lower Hall, Wrexham; possibly bred at Bryn Mylllt Pond and HMP Berwyn, Wrexham; FLINT: 49 pairs bred at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands of 89 across the reserve (0.5 young/pair); bred at Saltney Ferry, Hendy Ponds, Sandycroft, Llay Pool and Dyserth; probably bred at Cwm Road near Rhuddlan, at Pentre Hobyn and near Rhuallt.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index has fluctuated but shown no strong trend since the early 1990s. The BirdTrack reporting rate had been declining prior to the pandemic, and access restrictions may further have suppressed the rate in 2020 and 2021.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥500 birds at least once during the year.

≥500 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT								
Newport Wetlands Reserve	243	823	52		75	214	305	636
GOWER								
Wernffrwd-Weobley	245	*c.*1000			24		66	220
CARMARTHEN								
Penclacwydd	410	334	31		57	117	554	414
Gwendraeth estuary	201		9		11	9	293	2100
Taf estuary						191	200	591
PEMBROKE								
Cleddau estuary	2441		2			26	515	2526
Castlemartin Corse	1500	1500					280	490
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION								
Teifi estuary	1020	600				24	620	600
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD								
Dyfi estuary	140				9	198	494	642
CAERNARFON								
Foryd/Morfa Dinlle			*c.*15		60	49	400	560
ANGLESEY								
RSPB Cors Ddyga	60	300	153		0	110	1126	950
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	5	637						
Malltraeth Cob/Cefni est.	637		0				*c.*1500	1500
RSPB Valley Wetlands	440	206	43		17	152	26	630
FLINT								
Clwyd estuary	1287	1987			175	925	1348	1140
Point of Ayr/Talacre	600	269	9		34	100+	344	700
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	1500+				210	400	2000	2000+

Other flocks ≥500: PEMBROKE: 1000 at Treffynnon, Hayscastle, on 13 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 600+ at Craig-y-penrhyn on 24 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: *c.*1000 at Penllyn Farm, Tywyn, on 20 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 600 at Bodorgan and 900 at Porth Cwyfan on 27 Dec.; FLINT: 500 on Clwyd est. on 21 Dec.

2019 GWENT: the figures below replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

≥1000 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Newport Wetlands	1200	1000	80	100	100	20	79	100	71	85	442	1000
Peterstone Wentlooge	160	1300	12	12	5	3		3		1	300	250

Breeding: 23 pairs fledged one young (0.04/pair) at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), 1-2 at Redwick, 1 each at Gobion and Wilrick, and several others in the county without details of outcomes.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* CWTIAD AUR

Declining breeding species (36 pairs in 2008), found chiefly on upland plateaux in Denbighshire, Radnorshire, Ceredigion and Breconshire. Localised in winter, usually in large flocks. Amber WeBS alert: -39% medium term (but +76% long term). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	352	457
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Breeding: perhaps five territories (*cf*. four in 2020): CARMARTHEN: pair held territory on Mynydd Du but did not breed; BRECON: two nests on Mynydd Llangatwg; up to eight birds had been previously located in the area; two territories in the Black Mountains on 9 June, one having already lost a nest, indicated by a predated egg-shell.

Non-breeding: there is no strong trend in the Wetland Bird Survey index nor the BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales.

Max. monthly count at sites holding ≥400 at least once during the year.

≥400 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E. GLAMORGAN								
Kenfig NNR							500	73
Sker area	650	1200	626		130	320	750	200
GOWER								
Wernffrwd-Weobley	*c*.800	405	287		150	600	3000	
CARMARTHEN								
Gwendraeth estuary	2000	750	2000		5	3000	2500	2000
Taf estuary						1500	2000	2245
PEMBROKE								
Cleddau estuary	5610					350	900	4795
Landshipping	4600	3000						570
Castlemartin Corse	500	250	200				150	450
Llanrhian/St Davids Airfield	3000					1000	2900	3000
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION								
Teifi estuary	650	200					270	400
CEREDIGION								
Llansantffraed	500						500	
Ynyslas	500		370			174+		
CAERNARFON								
Morfa Dinlle/Foryd		30+	*c*.100			1	1060	1120
ANGLESEY								
RSPB Valley Wetlands	1		960					
Porth Cwyfan, Aberffraw	1000							200
Cemlyn			420		41	180		
Malltraeth/Cefni estuary						500	*c*.750	500

Other winter flocks ≥400 in coastal counties: CEREDIGION: 800 near Sarnau on 3 Jan.; 500 at Aberaeron and 1000 at Pen Garn Wen, near Capel Cynon, in Oct.; 750 at Llanrhystud in Dec.; CAERNARFON: 400 at Llanengan on 6 Jan.; 600 at Porth Neigwl on 2 Nov.

Inland sites holding ≥70 at least once during the year.

≥70 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN								
Mynydd y Glyn	109	121	13					
Mynydd Meio	200+						100	
Mynydd Pwll-yr-lwrch	15	42	122					
Werfa		5	28			175	40	
BRECON								
Llandefalle Hill*	53		86	112			175	
Mynydd Illtyd	97		89	76		29	164	100
Mynydd Llangatwg			40	70+				

Other inland counts ≥70: E.GLAMORGAN: 200 at Craig yr Allt on 2 Jan.; GOWER: 90 at Mynydd Emroch on 15 Jan.; 150 at Foel Trawsnant above Duffryn on 27 Feb.; BRECON: 220 over Twyn-y-wern, above Llywel (Epynt), on 21 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 180 at Llyn Hir, near Llanerfyl, on 10 Nov.; RADNOR: *c*.200 on The Begwns on 13 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 108 in a boulder field at Cyfrwy, Cadair Idris, on 20 March.

* includes Llangoed Common, Mynydd Fforest and Pantyllyn Hill.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva* CORGWTIAD AUR Y MOR TAWEL

Extremely rare vagrant from northeast Russia and Alaska. BBRC: one previous record, in 1990.

ANGLESEY: 2CY+ on the Cefni est. on 27-29 July was the first record for the county.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* CORGWTIAD AUR AMERICA

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 23 previous records.

PEMBROKE: 1CY at Dale Airfield on 15 Oct.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* CWTIAD LLWYD

Localised winter visitor to Welsh estuaries, and spring and autumn migrant. Red WeBS alert: -57% long term and amber (-34%) short term. 90% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	338	242
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales had, by 2019/20, reached its lowest point since it started in the mid-1970s. On the Burry Inlet SPA, red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long (-75%) and medium term (61%) and an amber alert (-41%) for the short term. On the Dee estuary SPA, an amber WeBS alert (-37%) has been issued for the long-term. Some sites have seen even greater declines in five-year average counts, such as Carmarthen Bay (-94% in the last decade). There has been no significant change in the BirdTrack reporting rate since 2013, with the slightly lower rate in 2021 likely to have been the result of winter lockdown.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥40 birds at least once during the year.

≥40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	92	49	16	35	22	1	1	1	1		20	8
Peterstone Wentlooge	1	8+	40	6							2	10
GOWER												
Salthouse Pt-Llanrhidian	67	174	24	4							115	67
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary			34		3			3			59	37
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	105	31	37						0	7	53	14
Traeth Melynog			4	0	1			0	0	0	58	10
FLINT												
Gronant		3	1	2				1	2	39	72	37

Counts ≥40 elsewhere: GOWER: 40 at Whiteford Pt on 27 March; CARMARTHEN: 37 at Kidwelly Quay on 19 March; CAERNARFON: *c*.50 at Deganwy on 18 Dec.

2019 GWENT: the figures below replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

≥40 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Newport Wetlands	44	20		3	32	1	1	2	12	68	63	46

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* CWTIAD TORCHOG

Scarce breeder (254 pairs in 2007, but records suggest a decline since). Passage migrant and winter visitor to all coastal areas. Red WeBS alert: -62% long-term. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1178	1345
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

Breeding: 28 pairs confirmed (plus an unknown number at Gronant) and at least another eight probably or possibly bred (*cf*. 19 and six in 2020). GWENT: two pairs bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) and at least three chicks seen; territory on R. Usk at Gobion; E.GLAMORGAN: at least three nests at Sker, one at Pink Bay, and a brood that probably fledged at Rest Bay; GOWER: two pairs bred at Whiteford Sands; possibly bred at Baglan Bay/Burrows; CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred at Machynys; CEREDIGION:

seven pairs bred at Ynyslas, with good numbers of young fledging; possibly bred at Borth; MEIRIONNYDD: two broods at Llyn Trawsfynydd; one pair bred at Fairbourne Pt and one at Tywyn; pair probably bred at Penllyn; CAERNARFON: bred at Llanystumdwy, Penrhyn Bay and on Bardsey, the first here since 2014, fledging two young; probably bred at four other sites. ANGLESEY: three nests at a site in western Anglesey; possibly nested at RSPB South Stack; FLINT: bred at Gronant (22 nests, including relays, from which 45 hatched but number fledged unknown) and Pt of Ayr.

Non-breeding: numbers stabilised during the decade to 2019/20, following a 59% decline in the Wetland Bird Survey index prior to 2010/11. The mean BirdTrack reporting rate in 2019-21 was 16% lower than in 2013-15, but lockdowns in the last two years may have exaggerated the extent of change.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥100 birds at least once during the year.

≥100 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve		16	14	78	250	20	12	147	36	28		28
St Brides					80+		1	116	50	19	98	20
GOWER												
Whiteford			6	97	9	6	50	270	320	57	30	50
Port Eynon			8	2	2		4	27	109		73	48
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point				6					107	53	66	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	124		3						21	29	32	8
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	17	16	7	62	53		4	95	100	16	19	15
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas	7		6	350	230		6	640	210			
MEIRIONNYDD												
Artro estuary	40	30	13	1	42				117		40	36
CAERNARFON												
Foryd			5	6	150		3	480	30			20
Traeth Lafan	80	1	15	*c.*20	30	11	2	389	230	46	70	37
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary					209				95			
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	100	2	0						2	39	4	1
FLINT												
Point of Ayr/Talacre			4	14	103	8	2	100		10+		
Gronant		9	10	42	17	10	*c.*40	6+	196	70		6
Clwyd estuary	4	3	1	1	15	1	2	*c.*220	6	3	3	2

Other counts ≥100: GOWER: 120 at Margam Sands on 15 Aug.; 108 at Crymlyn Burrows on 22 Aug.; 165 at Weobley causeway on 25 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 160 at Braint est. on 2 Sept.

Several small, dark birds thought to be of the race *C.h. psammadroma* passed through Bardsey, CAERNARFON, in spring and autumn.

2019 GWENT: at least two pairs bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); probably bred at St Brides.

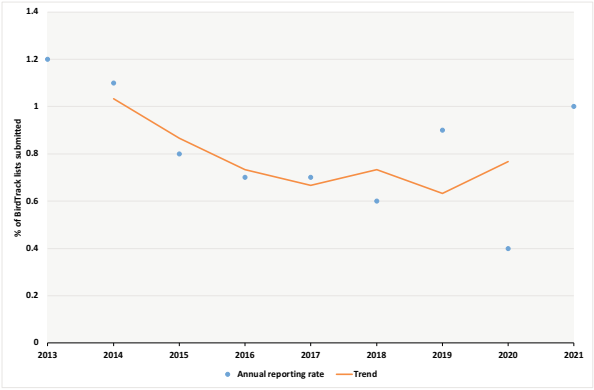
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Rare summer visitor, on industrial sites and gravel shoals of South Wales rivers: 144 pairs in 2007 (RBBP: 59 pairs in 2020). Scarce passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**126**	**273**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**1%**

Breeding: 24-32 pairs (*cf*. 11-43 in 2020) is the highest total for several years and without a survey of the important R. Tywi population. It included the first ANGLESEY breeding record. GWENT: pair bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), with up to three juveniles seen in July; E.GLAMORGAN: three nests at Llanilid; also bred at Hillside Farm, Ton-Breigam near Llanharry, where six birds included recently fledged young on 16 June, and at Hirwaun Ind. Estate, where two chicks seen on 4 July; probably bred at Llwyn-on Res. and Rhaslas Pond; GOWER: brood at Crymlyn Burrows; CARMARTHEN: no systematic surveys along R. Tywi; three pairs at Dinefwr Ponds; adult and juvenile at Llangunnor on 8 July; BRECON: two pairs bred in Blaen Dyffryn/Ystrad Quarry complex; pair in Blaen Onneu Quarry fledged at least one chick; three territories along

BirdTrack reporting rate: Little Ringed Plover in Wales 2013-21



The BirdTrack reporting rate had been falling prior to 2019, but with spring lockdown in 2020 and increased domestic holidays in 2021, it is hard to determine whether the up-tick is genuine.

500m of shingle bank on R. Usk at Scethrog, from which several chicks fledged, the first successful breeding on the river for some years; pair probably fledged one chick at Llangorse Lake, and a second pair held territory; probably bred at Talybont Res.; MONTGOMERY: probably bred at MWT Llandinam Gravels and at Dolydd Hafren; one at MWT Glaslyn on 6 June; MEIRIONNYDD: pair at Llyn Tegid on 12 April and two at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 27 April, but no evidence of breeding; ANGLESEY: pair fledged three young at RSPB Cors Ddyga, the first in the county; DENBIGH: probably bred at Llyn Aled Isaf; possibly bred at Lleweni Watermeadows, and pairs present at Llyn Brenig, Llay Pool and Acrefair; FLINT: pair fledged two young at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands; two pairs bred at St Asaph Business Park, one pair fledging three chicks; adult and juvenile at Gronant on 7 July.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	20 March	Llanfihangel Gobion		**24 Sept.**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve Goldcliff**
E.GLAMORGAN	2 April	Cefn Cribwr		26 Aug.	Newton beach
GOWER	11 April	Castell-du		2 Aug.	Upper Loughor estuary
CARMARTHEN	11 March	Llandeilo and Manordeilo		10 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	11 April	Skokholm		3 Sept.	Nevern estuary
CEREDIGION	1 April	Llanrhystud		10 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	24 March	Llangasty Point		15 Aug.	Llangasty
MONTGOMERY	12 April	MWT Llandinam Gravels		no autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	12 April	Llyn Tegid		no autumn records	
ANGLESEY	**2 March**	**RSPB Cors Ddyga**		no autumn records	
DENBIGH	30 March	Llay Pool		17 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	29 March	Clwyd estuary		6 Aug.	Broughton

The first record for ANGLESEY, was the earliest on the island this century by 24 days (*cf*. 2017) and equals the earliest in Wales in this period, with CARMARTHEN in 2018. The last of the year, in GWENT, was three days later than the previous latest in the county, in 2018. The last seen in DENBIGH was 11 days later than the previous latest, here, this century, in 2016. The September record in PEMBROKE matches the latest county and site record this century, in 2010.

2019 GWENT: bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), max. seven juveniles with two adults on 18 July, and at Gobion, where three full-grown chicks were present on 20 Aug.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* HUTAN Y MYNYDD

Local passage migrant in spring and autumn; nested sporadically until the 1970s, and suspected occasionally since – RBBP: one occupied territory in 2019. Wales Amber listed.

Spring records: min. 15 at five sites (*cf*. 18 birds at five sites in 2020, even though lockdown in April and May meant there were fewer visitors to traditional stopover sites in 2020). CARMARTHEN: single birds at Garreg Lwyd on 29 April and 1 May; CAERNARFON: two on Foel Fras on 26 April and four here on 11 May; two on the Great Orme on 4-6 May and reported on 9th; ANGLESEY: two males on The Range on 17-19 April; four at Carmel Head on 9 May.

In autumn, 14 were recorded at eight sites (*cf*. 10 records in 2020): CARMARTHEN: on Mynydd Du, four at Garreg Lwyd on 15 Sept., one here on 16th and one at Foel Fraith on 29th; one at Penclacwydd on 18 Sept. was the first coastal record in the county; PEMBROKE: at least two on Skokholm on 9-14 Sept.; up to three at Dale Airfield on 15-26 Sept.;

MEIRIONNYDD: Tal y bont beach on 14 Sept.; CAERNARFON: one on Foel Grach on 15 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one at The Range on 10 Sept.

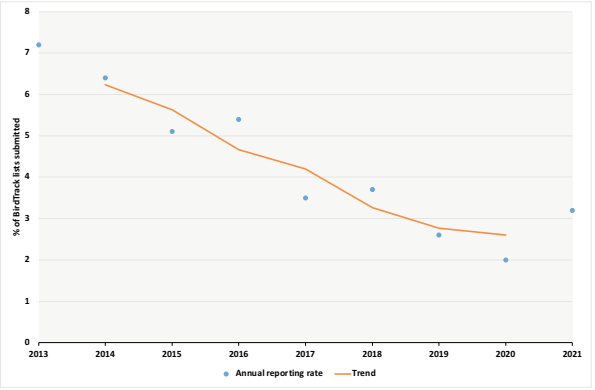
WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* COEGYLFINIR

Locally common in coastal counties on spring and autumn passage, scarce inland. A few over-winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	570	924
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

A slight increase in the BirdTrack reporting rate but still well below the average during the previous decade. It can be difficult to distinguish between early or late passage birds and wintering individuals. Spring passage probably began with one on Skokholm, PEMBROKE, on 10 March. The last passage record was one at Morfa Madryn, CAERNARFON, on 10 Oct.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Whimbrel in Wales 2013-21



Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥30 birds at least once during the year.

≥30 birds	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT								
Collister Pill		40	1			2	1	
Peterstone		36	40	1	3	3	1	
St Brides		74	39			1	1	
E. GLAMORGAN								
Lavernock Point		70	12					
Rumney Great Wharf		42	73			2		
Sker Point area		51	26		2	6	3	
Sully Bay		30	3		1	1		
GOWER								
Salthouse Point		184	23					
CARMARTHEN								
Dredger Jetty, Pwll		28	208	8				
Gwendraeth estuary		64	26		3	12		
PEMBROKE								
Gann estuary		50	18	3	3	3	4	
Nevern estuary		44	75		1			
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION								
Teifi estuary	3	62	15	8	2	3	3	
CEREDIGION								
Ynyslas/Ynys Tachwedd		276	40		4	1		1
CAERNARFON								
Bardsey	2	57	42	3	7	24	7	2
Foryd		37	42	2	2	3		
Traeth Lafan		80	*c.*100		2	4	2	1
ANGLESEY								
RSPB Cors Ddyga		2	39					
FLINT								
Point of Ayr/Talacre			50	1	7	1		
Clwyd estuary	1	34	21		2	3	2	1

Passage counts ≥30 elsewhere: GOWER: 45 at Dalton's Pt on 25 April; PEMBROKE: 157 at Pencarnan on 24 April and 120, presumably from the same flock, at Treleddyn Farm/Porthselau on 26-30th; 50 at Castlemartin Ranges on 24 April; CEREDIGION: 34 at Llanrhystud on 18 April; 30 at Aberaeron on 22 April; 46 at Llanon on 24 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 104 on Broadwater on 25 April; CAERNARFON: 50 at Porthdinllaen/Nefyn on 26 April; 30 over the Daron valley on 13 May; ANGLESEY: 48 at Llyn Llywenan on 27 April.

First winter period (Jan./Feb.), all singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd in Feb.; CAERNARFON: up to two on Bardsey in March, prior to spring passage, suggesting that these had wintered on the island; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 17 Jan. and on several dates thereafter, two here on 25 March; Traeth Coch from 17 Jan. to 13 Feb.; FLINT: Clwyd est. from 12 Jan. to at least 16 March.

Second winter period, all singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: Fishguard Harbour from 10 Dec. into 2022; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 12 Dec.; Aber Ogwen on 29 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn from 10 Oct.; FLINT: two on Clwyd est. on 3 Nov., with one here on 18th.

Inland records, all singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: sound-recorded at night over Penarth on 22 April, 3 and 5 May, and over Maesteg on 14 Aug.; CEREDIGION: two at Cors Caron on 8 May; BRECON: over Waun Rydd, Llanwrtyd Wells, on 17 April; Llangasty on 20 April and two here on 23rd; five at Scethrog Farm on 26 April; two on Llangasty Pt on 27 April; six at Llangasty on 4 May and one here on 5th; over Pennorth on 30 July; over Upper Llangynidr on 26 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren on 12 and 14 May; DENBIGH: Llanfair Talhaiarn on 23 April; ANGLESEY: four over Talwrn on 2 Sept.

Ringing: an Icelandic colour-ringed bird on the Nevern estuary, PEMBROKE, on 21 April and one colour ringed in Guinea Bissau here on 2 May.

2019 GWENT: the figures below are additional to or replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

≥30 birds	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Newport Wetlands	119	15		10	4	3	2
Peterstone Wentlooge	50	45	1	3	2		

Other counts ≥30: 42 at Sluice Farm on 19 April, 35 at Undy in April.

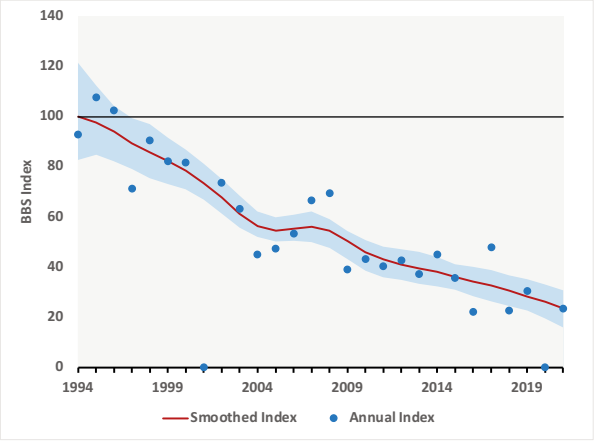
CURLEW *Numenius arquata* GYLFINIR

Localised and declining breeding species in upland Wales and a few lowland sites. Abundant winter visitor to coastal areas. Amber WeBS alert: -37% long-term, the greatest decline of any country in the UK. 64% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3600	3754
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	15%

Curlew is the only breeding wader for which a Breeding Bird Survey trend can be generated in Wales, but the sample size is only just sufficient to do so. The long-term trend has fallen further, this year by 73% compared to 1995, and by 43% since 2010.

Breeding Bird Survey: Curlew in Wales 2013-21



Breeding season: five confirmed nests and 111-117 territories/probable breeding pairs, the highest total reported for several years, reflecting targeted surveys in parts of CAERNARFON and DENBIGH, and increased effort in GWENT and MONTGOMERY. GWENT: present at 21 inland sites, at which seven held territories and of these 3-5 involved nesting attempts. Juveniles were seen at two sites; E.GLAMORGAN: three birds, one displaying, north of Parc Cwm Darran, Bargoed, on 30 June; present at Rhaslas Pond, Gelligaer Common, near Bute Town pond and at Jepson's Pond; CEREDIGION: present at Cors Caron (26 on 20 March), Cors Ian and Comins Pen-banc; BRECON: three territories at Pantyllyn; two pairs at Cefn Gledwen and Brechfa Pool; 1-2 pairs at Merthyr Cynog (Epynt); single pairs at Drum Ddu/Rhiw, Llanwrthwl, Brochen crossroads (Llysdinam), Drovers Arms (Epynt), Bronllys, Pencelli, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Llanddew, The Tower and Mynydd Illtud (W); possibly bred around Llangorse Lake; RADNOR: survey of 43km² in the Elan Valley recorded six pairs, with a seventh reported; chick at Clifford; distraction display near Craig Goch Res.; pair at Leech Pool; territory at Maesgwyn Farm; also present in the breeding season on Black Mountain, north of Cwmdu, near Garreg Ddu Res., Pant-y-dŵr, Llynheilyn, Brynwyddog and Warren Hill; MONTGOMERY: about 25 pairs attempted to nest in the county; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at Gelli Gollen, Glan yr Afon, another pair 1km to the west, at Blaen Yale, Llidiart y Parc, at Cwm Croes, Llanuwchllyn, at Maerdy Uchaf, on Llanycil Common (two), at Fridd y Pentre, Bala, at Llyn Trawsfynydd, Llyn Oerfel, Llyn Caer Euni and Milltir Gerrig, Berwyn; CAERNARFON: two "bubbling" at Mynytho Common between March and June; one at Pencaenewydd; two at Gwaun Gynfi on several dates between March and May; two in the upper Llugwy valley; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: 12-16 pairs at Ysbyty Ifan; ANGLESEY: three partial territories at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: 7-8 pairs at Foelasfechan; two pairs fledged four chicks at Is-y-coed, Wrexham; two pairs displayed at Old Lower Hall, Wrexham; probably bred at Pentrefoelas and Cerrigydrudion, and birds present in suitable

habitat at another 28 sites; FLINT: pair in suitable habitat at Nant-y-Ffrith Res. and at Llety Farm, Moel Llys-y-cord; displaying bird at Caerwys.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fell by 44% between 1992/93 and 2019/20, evident on most Welsh estuaries, an exception being Traeth Lafan, where the July total was the highest site count ever recorded in Wales. A Red WeBS alert has been issued for the Burry Inlet SPA (-60%) and an Amber alert in the Dee estuary SPA (-37%). The BirdTrack reporting rate fell annually to 2020 (from over 24% in 2013 and 2014), but there was a modest increase in 2021.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥500 birds at least once during the year.

≥500 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	82	258	100	6	31	175	453	650	364	406	52	117
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	295		98						546	528	278	440
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi estuary	30	26		31	2	4	6	30+	40	300	422	559
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1000+	*c.*10	213	570	51	200+	1816	1069	1364	1546	1630	1521
FLINT												
Point of Ayr/Talacre	200	258	700	700		100	1000	1200	1250	1200	1000	700

Colour-ringing resightings: BRECON: birds seen included individuals ringed at Llanrhystud, CEREDIGION, at Gann est., PEMBROKE, and at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, the latter as part of a "head-starting" scheme; ANGLESEY: one at Penrhos Coastal Park on 1 Sept. had been ringed on a breeding site at Bryn Eglwys, DENBIGH, on 2 May 2019.

2019 GWENT:

≥500 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Newport Wetlands	200	233	295	35	4	20	150	400	600	204	172	200

Breeding season: two fledged at Great Triley and one at Llangybi; probably bred at Bran y Gwenin and possibly at a site near Tredegar.

Site-faithful wintering Curlews don't all head for the hills

As part of the ECHOES project (**https://echoesproj.eu**), BTO Cymru GPS-tagged Curlews wintering around Irish Sea coasts, including six on ANGLESEY in Dec. 2020, to see how they make use of different habitats and understand how predictions of climate change will affect them. These showed that the birds use fields throughout the Cefni Valley to feed, moving well inland particularly at night, although some individuals explored more widely than others. Initial analysis suggests they are selecting intertidal areas and neutral grasslands more than expected by chance; this habitat preference changed over time and with the spring and neap tidal pattern.

The birds departed at the end of the winter, but by June 2021, three had returned to the Cefni Valley before they moulted off their GPS tags. Each had a very different story to tell: one stayed on the estuary through the whole spring and summer; one bred just north of Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire; the third went to Finland, yet all three were faithful to the same wintering site. Summarised from Bowgen (2022).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRAITH

Local passage migrant, more numerous in autumn than spring, and winter visitor. Rare away from the coasts. Red WeBS alert: -50% long-term and -51% short-term, although +21% medium term. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**344**	**474**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**2%**

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a sustained decline since the 1970s, to a level in 2019/20 that was 91% below its peak, the greatest decline of any wader in Wales over the previous 25 years (-58%). A WeBS red alert (-54%) for the long-term and an amber alert (-46%) for the short-term has been issued on the Dee estuary SPA. The BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen slightly since 2013. There were some impressive counts in late April, especially on the South Wales coast.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥50 birds at least once during the year.

≥50 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve				254	15	5	4	8	4		36	
GOWER												
Salthouse Point/Pill	38			80					20			
CARMARTHEN												
Pwll		31		50	1							
Burry Port/Pembrey	6		63	146	36			28				
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	2								1	4	57	45
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary	39	35	112				1	22	58	52	42	69
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	136	64	98					22	46	80	70	1

Other counts ≥50: GWENT: 90 at Collister on 25 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 220 at Lavernock Pt, 200 at Sker Pt and 102 at Kenfig Sands on 22 April; 110 at Kenfig Sands, 100 at Lavernock Pt and 79 at Traeth yr Afon on 23 April; 290 east at Lavernock Pt on 26 April; CEREDIGION: 127 at Ynyslas on 28 April.

Inland: BRECON: one at Llangasty Pt on 23-27 April.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Localised spring and autumn passage migrant; wintering numbers have increased on the Dee estuary, usually on the English side. Amber WeBS alert: -27% short-term, but +140% for long-term. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**1292**	**1401**
% of BirdTrack lists	**5%**	**5%**

This is one of only two waders to have increased in numbers in Wales (+170%) during the 25 years to 2019/20. The BirdTrack reporting rate has remained consistent since 2013, despite any possible suppression as a result of lockdowns in the last two years. The September totals on the Dee estuary, FLINT (now the third most important site in the UK for this species), were a significant portion of the whole estuary count of 7780 – the highest ever recorded. The flock of *c*.560 on shallow floods at RSPB Cors Ddyga was almost certainly an ANGLESEY record.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥50 birds at least once during the year.

≥50 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	26	36	663	350+	70	20	111	70	150	14	54	50
St Brides				300						64		1
GOWER												
Upper Loughor estuary	5	8	34					101	224	564	190	24
Dalton's Pt/Morfa Bacas	268	200	352	650		363	47	87	24	147	343	85
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	251	400	678	225	250	305	478	850	831	822	514	565
Gwendraeth estuary			24				4	16	10	9	57	200
Tywi estuary			8	8					36	3	199	1
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	103		21	2	1		3	1	9	5	44	116
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Cors Ddyga	1	2	20	0	0	5	0	15	2	0	170	*c*.560
Beddmanarch-Cymyran			1						0	14	51	0
FLINT												
Gronant		394						6		8	69	*c*.260
Point of Ayr/Talacre	1800	430	19	1				100	1550	450	275	235
Flint saltmarsh				330			43	17	52	225		60
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	6		5	900	1	1	1100	2800	4000	2500	2500	370
Clwyd estuary	*c*.200	52	9	11	1	25	39	37	14	17	42	*c*.30

Other counts ≥50: GWENT: 118 at Blackrock on 5 Nov.; GOWER: 335 south of Loughor Bridge on 15 July; 72 at Whiteford on 21 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 150 at Lawrenny on 18 Feb.; 100 at Pembroke River on 3 Nov. and 50 here on 13th.; ANGLESEY: 80 at Gorad flood, Valley, on 25 Nov.; FLINT: *c*.550 between Prestatyn and Gronant on 1 Feb.

Inland: E.GLAMORGAN: an unusual record of one at Pontcanna Fields on 8 Oct.; BRECON: at Llangorse, several records of 1-2 on spring passage; six at Llangasty Pt on 16 Oct.; ANGLESEY: max. 30 at Llyn Alaw on 22 Sept.; FLINT: one at Llay Pool on 29 April.

2019 GWENT: the figures below are additional to or replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

≥50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Newport Wetlands	500	153	402	330	96	63	350	357	426	200	134	200
Peterstone Wentlooge	20	200	160	24	1	1	3	40	450	78		160

L.l.limosa

Rare passage migrant, but status unclear.

PEMBROKE: a colour-ringed bird on the Gann est. on 18-26 March was the first for the county and only the second for Wales. It had been ringed as a chick in the Netherlands in 2019.

Turnstone (Rob Stratton)

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* CWTIAD TRAETH

Localised passage migrant and winter visitor, 66% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). A few non-breeding birds are present throughout the summer. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**1197**	**1204**
% of BirdTrack lists	**5%**	**5%**

The annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019/20 was the highest recorded since 1990/91. However, numbers on the Dee estuary have fallen dramatically, and red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long term (-89%) and medium term (-78%) on the Burry Inlet SPA. The BirdTrack reporting rate in 2019-21 was 22% lower than in 2013-15, but travel restrictions may have affected the rate in the last two years.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥50 birds at least once during the year.

≥50 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Newton Pt & surrounds	25	20	55	31	1		8	48	75	95	85	100
Porthcawl seafront	14	1	7	1	8			23	1	114	12+	9
Sker Pt area incl. Pink Bay	55	63	42	25	31		17	53	29	85	54	10
Sully Bay	35+	26	30	8	1		9	34	60	46	33	11
GOWER												
Knab Rock/Mumbles	100	70	25	4	2		12	87	162	188	123	82
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port	128	51	11	19			2	1	39	125	86	
CEREDIGION												
Aberarth/Aberaeron			36	5			7	13	16	47	64	38
Aberystwyth/Tanybwlch	51	43	32	3	10			33	27	38	19	48
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey			33	25	32	10	21	61	89	77		
Foryd			*c.*500	*c.*20	1			76	80	130	150	125
Traeth Lafan	*c.*100	*c.*50	176	45	1			179	135	124	200	217
Llandudno	*c.*180	*c.*120	*c.*55	57	12					*c.*35	4	*c.*15
Rhos Point		3	*c.*25	1				80	190+	*c.*120	20+	
DENBIGH												
Kinmel Bay/Horton's Nose	51	36	*c.*180	312	31	26	111	214	211	346	212	210
Llanddulas-Abergele	2	7	45						62	20	2	51

Counts ≥50 elsewhere: GOWER: 56 at Swansea Marina on 17 Sept.; FLINT: 250 on Clwyd est. on 30 March probably included some of those recorded at Kinmel Bay/ Horton's Nose, DENBIGH, in the table; *c.*60 at Prestatyn-Ffrith on 26 Dec.

2019 GWENT, additional record ≥50: 50 at Redwick on 25 Feb.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* PIBYDD YR ABER

Locally common winter visitor to some estuaries, but scarce elsewhere. Also passage migrant, but rare inland. Red WeBS alert: -50% for medium term and -55% for short term. Wales Amber listed (Red prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**503**	**341**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**1%**

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been very stable over the long-term, but a red WeBS alert (-52%) for the medium term and amber alerts for the short (-40%) and long (-33%) terms have been issued for the Burry Inlet SPA. Amber alerts have been issued for the short (-40%), medium (-31%) and long (-40%) term on the Dee estuary SPA. The consequences of winter travel restrictions is evident on the 2021 BirdTrack reporting rate, which until this year had also been very consistent.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥300 birds at least once during the year.

≥300 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Burry Inlet	1300	2000		1				3	580		800	3000
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt							1		245	104	475	60
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	*c.*500	*c.*500	32						1	19	10	330
FLINT												
Point of Ayr/Talacre	1000		9	1					17	200+	160	400
Flint			80	75						5	475	175
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	500+		1				4	3	2	2000	1000	200

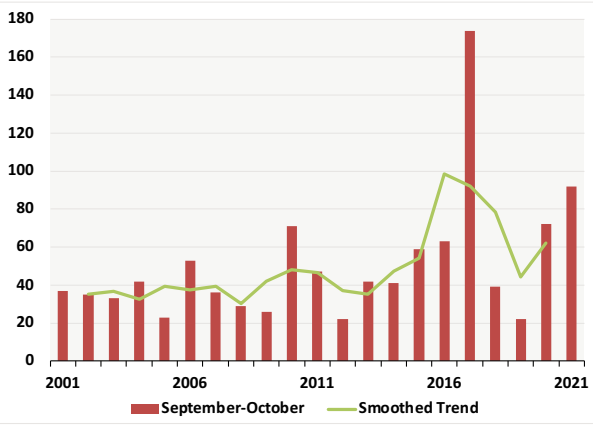
RUFF *Calidris pugnax* PIBYDD TORCHOG

Localised passage migrant in small numbers, principally in autumn. Occasionally winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	276	304
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The combined maximum counts in each recording area during September/October averages 48, so the 92 this year was almost double that, and the second best year this century. The BirdTrack reporting rates for 2020 and 2021 were as high as any previous year.

Autumn Ruff recorded in Wales, based on max. monthly count in each county in Sept.-Oct., 2001-21



Counts ≥5 included in the table: GWENT: monthly max. at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) included 10 on 18 July, 10 on 23 Aug. and 22 on 19 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: seven at Penclacwydd in Sept.; CEREDIGION: five at Borth on 14 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 16 at Llyn Alaw on 22 Sept.

Numbers of birds in each county.

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT			2	5	4	1	10	10	22	3		
E.GLAMORGAN								6	1			
GOWER								1	4			
CARMARTHEN	1	1		2	1	1		3	9	2	2	1
PEMBROKE	1	1		2				3	1			
CEREDIGION								1	15	1		
BRECON				1								
MEIRIONNYDD										1		
CAERNARFON								1	7	1	1	1
ANGLESEY				1	1			2	22	7		
DENBIGH								2	3			
FLINT								4	7	3		

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* PIBYDD CAMBIG

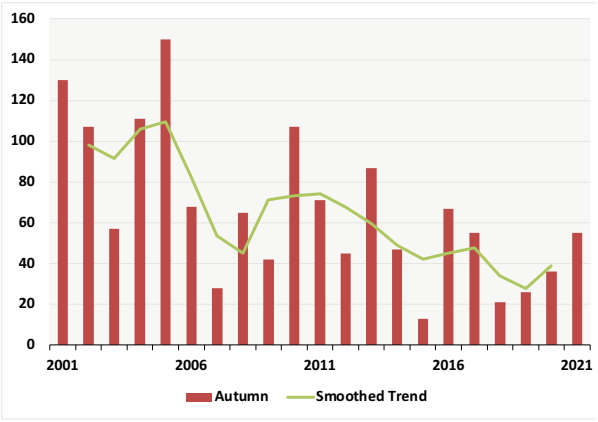
Uncommon passage migrant to coastal areas, principally in autumn, relatively numerous in some years. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	253	200
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

An unusually good spring passage produced about 25 individuals, compared to just three in 2020, min. six in 2019 and min. eight in 2018. Records are of singles unless stated: GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 26-28 April, one remaining to 30th, one here on 12-16 May, two on 20th and 28th, and one on most dates from 22 May to 7 June; St Brides on 24 May; GOWER: Whiteford on 17 April; CARMARTHEN: Pembrey Harbour on 25 April; PEMBROKE: Gann est. on 16-18 May; CEREDIGION: passage at Ynyslas between 28 April and 4 May, max. three on 30 April and eight on 4 May; MEIRIONNYDD: two on Broadwater on 25 April; Aberdysynni on 27 April; Artro est. on 13 May; ANGLESEY: Four Mile Bridge on 1 May; Alaw est. on 10 May.

The best autumn total since 2013 followed several poor years (note the chart shows a more conservative tally). All

Curlew Sandpipers recorded in Wales, based on max. monthly count in each county in Sept.-Oct., 2001-21



were single birds unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 20 July and 5 Aug., two on 27 Aug. and one remaining to 30th, then one on 3, 5, 9 and 12 Sept. with two on 10th, then one on 19th, two on 22nd, one on 24th and three on 26th; also at Peterstone on 20 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: Newton beach on 3-4 Sept.; GOWER: 1-2 at Cwm Ivy/Whiteford Sands and Berges Island on 11-19 Sept.; Weobley on 19 Sept.; three at Whiteford Pt on 20 Sept.; Bwlchmynydd, Upper Loughor est., on 24 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: two at Penclacwydd from 30 Aug. to 12 Sept., three here on 17th, six on 18-23 Sept., seven on 24th, six on 25th and four on 26th, with one remaining into Oct.; three at Kidwelly Quay on 6 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Gann est. on 22 July and 5 Sept., three here on 6-8th, one until 17th; Nevern est. on 31 Aug. and 3 Sept.; Skomer on 7 Sept.; Hook on 8-19 Sept.; New Shipping on 12 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 5-6 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Dyfi est. from 31 Aug. to 11 Sept., with two on the last date; Borth on 2-4 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: R. Glaslyn at Porthmadog on 7 Sept., two here on 11-12th and one on 27th; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 31 Aug.; Morfa Madryn on 4 and 7 Sept.; Pwllheli on 12 and 19 Sept. and 9 and 14 Oct.; Bardsey on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Traeth Dulas on 28 Aug. and 5 Sept.; Malltraeth Cob pool on 29 Aug, two here on 2 Sept., one on 6th, three on 21st and one on 23rd; Alaw est. on 5 Sept.; Traeth Coch on 23 Sept.; four at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 9 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 2 and 25 Sept; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 15 Aug., 10 Sept and 14, 18 and 20 Oct.; Clwyd est. on 31 Aug. and 1 Sept.; Gronant on 16 Sept.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Winter visitor, locally fairly common on sandy beaches in Flintshire and South Wales. Passage migrant on the coast but scarce inland. Amber WeBS alerts: -42% for short-term and -45% for medium term. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**344**	**365**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**1%**

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has returned to levels typical of the 1980s and 1990s, following a sharp increase in the late 2000s. A recent fall in the BirdTrack reporting rate may be a consequence of travel restrictions in 2020 and 2021.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥50 birds at least once during the year.

≥50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)				4	70		30+		2			
E.GLAMORGAN												
Newton Pt & beach	140	100	370	46	30		2	36	51	62	123	100
Kenfig Sands	35	400	460	100+	100	10	75	159		280	330	30+
Rest Bay				7	160							
Sker Pt & Pink Bay	31	112	350	265	6		250	165			70	P
Sully Island & Bay				10+	110			3				
GOWER												
Margam Sands	300	750	500	240	240			90		450	400	
Aberafan Beach	179	200	200	2				6	170	150	41	
Oxwich Bay	38	29		34						10		50
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey	1	50	190	400	150		100	200	6	150	5	
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point			20	350	50		231		15	20	139	187
CAERNARFON												
Lower Conwy estuary	82	*c.*70	*c.*80					6		20	40	20
Traeth Lafan					1			*c.*20	23	1+	*c.*50	6
Traeth Crugan										137	20	
FLINT												
Gronant	12	96	21	7	3		20	7	25	*c.*30	36	*c.*15
Rhyl and Clwyd estuary	50+							5			145+	*c.*90

Other flocks ≥50: GOWER: 173 at Crymlyn Burrows on 22 Aug.; >80 at Salthouse Pt on 24 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 96 at Tal y bont on 17 Sept.; 60 on Glaslyn/ Dwyryd est. in Dec.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* PIBYDD MAWN

Scarce and local breeder, restricted to a few blanket bogs with scattered pools. Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber WeBS alert: -44% long-term, the highest of any UK country. 94% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1802	1768
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

Breeding season/habitat: GWENT: reports of territorial behaviour at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), but no other evidence of breeding; BRECON: one faithful to a Cotton Grass tussock in the Black Mountains on 9 June but no clear evidence of breeding.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales was at its lowest ever value in 2019/20, 74% lower than its 1974/75 baseline. Amber WeBS alerts have been issued for short (-26%) and long (-41%) term declines in Burry Inlet SPA. A recent fall in the BirdTrack reporting rate may be a consequence of travel restrictions in 2020 and 2021.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥1000 birds at least once during the year.

≥1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Caldicot Pill	3000+	1000					80+	200+	80	400	1500	2000+
Newport Wetlands	1	61	43	129	2500	25	316	300	150	34	2000	*c.*650
Peterstone Wentlooge		25	130	70+	190		7	15+	65	60	500	2200
St Brides					700+			36	80	86	200	2200
Undy			2	2	12		3	4	158		2000	1540
GOWER												
Weobley/Crofty	3500	*c.*700	46	14				66	500			1800
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	144	100	150		6	3	86	4	50	175	1450	77
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	3994	2350	67						76	52	822	2317
Landshipping	1000	2000										350
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	17		2	1036	720		50	280	320	170	101	89
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	*c.*2000	*c.*1500	40	*c.*30	25	1	1	222	284	20+	447	3071
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	1887	814	120		120				38	26	123	11
FLINT												
Point of Ayr/Talacre	1000		200		300		7	450		100+	650	1200
Flint	4500		46	45				4	9	21	35	34
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	1250+		110	40			110	200	30	140	2000	2500

2019 GWENT: the figures below are additional to or replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

≥1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Mathern coast	3000	280	35				39	84	300	163	500	9
Undy coast	3000			6	85					700	1500	800
Newport Wetlands	1000	1000	12	185	890	168	230	1000	200	300	1200	3000
Peterstone Wentlooge	1000	3000	16	16	140			40	22	20	1600	500

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* PIBYDD DU

Localised winter visitor in small numbers to rocky shorelines. Red WeBS alerts: -51% medium term and amber alert (42%) for short-term, but long-term is +96%. Wales Red listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	145	181
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Counts at most sites have fallen in recent years. The mean BirdTrack reporting rate in 2019-21 is only half that of 2013-15, although the 2021 rate will have been suppressed by winter travel restrictions. Single birds

roosting with Turnstones at Burry Port Harbour on 26 Feb. and 3 April were only the fourth and fifth records for CARMARTHEN since 1991.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥10 birds at least once during the year.

≥10 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Porthcawl Pt to Rest Bay	13			24							6+	
Sker Point area	5	11	7	16	7					2	7	2
GOWER												
Port Eynon/Sedger's Bank		11	20	3						3	6	21
PEMBROKE												
Monkstone to Tenby	2	6	8	3						12		4
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey			8	43	40	0	1	9	66	30		
ANGLESEY												
Cemlyn	15		12	2	3							
Trearddur Bay		12								12		

Other counts ≥10: GOWER: 41 between Oxwich Pt and Slade on 10 Feb.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* PIBYDD BACH

Uncommon passage migrant in small numbers to coastal areas, principally in autumn. Rare inland. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**136**	**275**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Spring passage: GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from 26 April to 1 May, two here on 30 April, one on 8-9 May, one on 28 and 30 May, two on 29th and one on 29 June.

Autumn passage, involved a min. 89 individuals (23 on Anglesey), compared to a min. 36 in 2020, maintaining the 30 year average (n=90). All were singles unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 31 July and 4 Aug., 12-17 Aug., two on 19th, one from 28 Aug. to 2 Sept., two on 3rd, four on 5th, 7th and 8th, 1-2 on most dates to 26 Sept. and one on 13 Oct.; two at Llandegfedd Res. on 1-3 Sept. and four here on 5-6th; Peterstone Wentlooge on 2-3 Sept. and two here on 5th; GOWER: Whiteford Sands/Pt on 4-20 Sept., max. three on 5th and 11th; Weobley saltings from 6 Sept. to 8 Oct., max. three on 19 Sept.; Bwlchmynydd, Upper Loughor est., on 16 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 5 and 12 Sept.; Pembrey Harbour on 6 Sept.; Ginst Pt on 17 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Grassholm on 26 Aug.; up to four in Angle Bay on 1-7 Sept.; Sprinkle Pill on 2 Sept.; Hook on 6-10 Sept.; Nevern est. on 5-15 Sept. and two here on 6-12th; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 1-12 Sept. and two here on 8-11th; CEREDIGION: up to seven at RSPB Ynys-hir on 1-10 Sept.; three at Ynyslas on 5 Sept. and singles here on 11th and 17th, and 11 Oct.; Llanrhystud on 5-10 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: Llyn Trawsfynydd on 27 Aug.; Porthmadog Cob on 16 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Malltraeth Cob pool and Cefni est. on 29 and 31 Aug., four on 1 Sept., three on 2nd-4th, eight on 5th and three on 6th; Inland Sea on 31 Aug.; two at Stanley Embankment on 2 Sept.; Alaw est. on 1 Sept. and two here on 3rd-6th; two at Llyn Alaw from 22 Sept. to 1 Oct. and three here on 25th; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy daily from 26 Aug. to 17 Sept., with two on 4th and 13th; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR/Oakenholt Marsh on 3 Sept. and five here on 6th; min. nine at Gronant on 21 Sept. and two on 23rd; Pt of Ayr on 12 Sept. and two here on 10 Oct.

2019 GWENT: additional records: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 2 Sept.; one at Collister Pill on 15 Dec.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* PIBYDD CAIN

Scarce vagrant from North America and Siberia. WBRC: 147 previous records.

Singles unless stated. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from 18-27 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Angle Bay on 18-19 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Llyn Alaw on 24-30 Sept.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scalopaceus* GIACH GYLFINHIR
Rare visitor from Arctic Siberia and coastal Alaska. BBRC: 21 previous records.

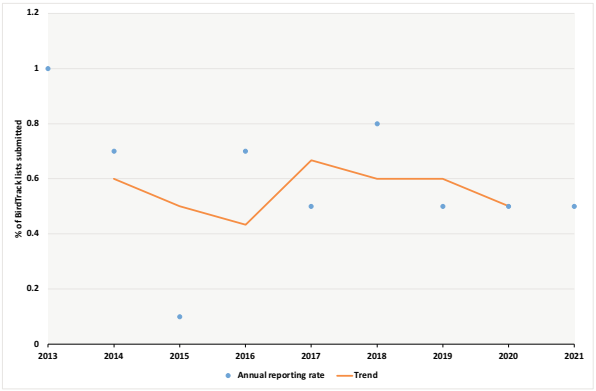
CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 15-28 Aug. was the fifth county record. Remarkably, almost 20% of Welsh records come from this site.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* CYFFYLOG
Localised and declining breeder. Widespread and fairly common in winter. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	155	165
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: the status of this species in Wales remains poorly understood, but records of breeding or possible breeding have been in single figures for several years. Song was heard at Wentwood, GWENT, on two dates in June. There was a record of possible breeding near the Grey Mare's Tail waterfall in Gwydir Forest, CAERNARFON, on 8 June, and a bird was at Rhydymwyn, FLINT, on 20 May.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Whimbrel in Wales 2013-21



Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate has been surprisingly consistent over recent years. Max. passage and wintering counts (3+) listed below. Most multiple counts were from nocturnal ringing effort or shooting:

First winter period. E.GLAMORGAN: four at Robertstown on 7 April; CARMARTHEN: six flushed from the riverside at Ynyswen, Llanegwad, on 13 Feb.; BRECON: 36 at Trawsnant on 21 Jan. and up to three at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl; ANGLESEY: six in Newborough Forest on 1 Jan.; five at Talwrn on 25 Jan.; DENBIGH: three at Pentre-cefn on 13 Feb.; FLINT: four in Rhydymwyn valley on 28 Jan.

Second winter period: GWENT: six at Broad Meend on 21 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: eight at Pen-y-garn Farm on 1 Dec.; eight at Caer-lan Farm on 3 Dec.; three at Coed y Bwl on 28 Dec. and 10 here on 30th; GOWER: four at Bryn-caws Farm, above Cilfrew, on 4 Dec.; PEMBROKE: eight at Boncath on 29 Nov. and seven here on 28 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: three at Teifi Marshes on 14 Dec.; CAERNARFON: nine at Tal-y-cafn on 29 Nov. (including birds ringed here in 2017 and 2019) and four here on 8 Dec.; five near Penrhyn Bay on 2 Dec.; ANGLESEY: seven at Newborough Forest on 22 Nov.

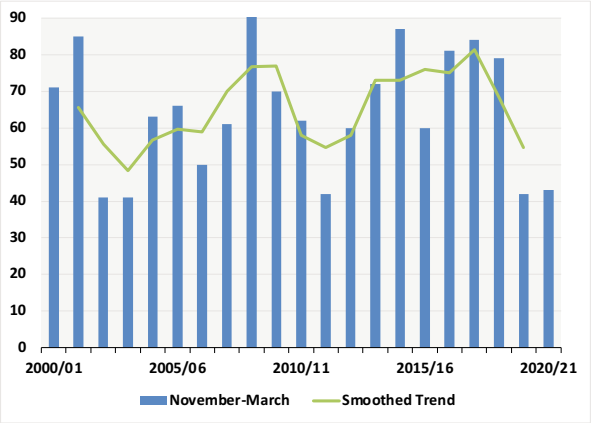
2019 GWENT, additional records: 20 at Llanarth in Jan./Feb.; five at The Narth and one at Wentwood (predated) during the breeding season; eight at Brynmawr in the second winter period.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus* GIACH BACH
Uncommon (and probably under-recorded) passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	75	98
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The number of records in bird reports varies, but showed no strong trend until the last couple of years, but both were affected by COVID lockdown restrictions. The mean BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales fell by 64% between 2013-15 and 2019-21, the same trend as the UK Wetland Bird Survey index. The latest record of the first winter period was one at Foel Gron, Abergeirw, MEIRIONNYDD, on 7 May, and the earliest record of the second winter period was one at Sker, E.GLAMORGAN, on 14 Sept.

Jack Snipe recorded in Wales, based on county max. during Nov.-March, 2001-21



Min. number in each county of occurrence.

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT			1	1						2
E.GLAMORGAN	6	7	3	1			1	1		5
GOWER	1	6	1	1				1	5	1
CARMARTHEN	2	1	3							
PEMBROKE	1	2	3	1				3	1	1
CEREDIGION			1	2			5	7	3	1
BRECON	1							1	3	4
MONTGOMERY							1			
MEIRIONNYDD			2	1	1					1
CAERNARFON	3	1	9	2				2	2	5
ANGLESEY	4	3	3	5				6		7
DENBIGH		1	3	1				2	1	2
FLINT	3								7	

Counts ≥5 included in the table. GOWER: five at Wernffrwd on 12 Feb.; five at Oxwich on 14 Nov.; CEREDIGION: up to five flushed during rush-cutting at RSPB Ynys-hir in late Sept. and Oct.; CAERNARFON: five at Foryd in Dec.; FLINT: five at Gronant Dunes on 12 Nov.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* GIACH CYFFREDIN

Localised but declining breeder (1100 pairs). Fairly common and more widespread in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1280	1263
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

Records denote presence in suitable habitat during the breeding season (from 35 sites, *cf.* 15 in 2020) unless greater evidence is provided: GWENT: Mynydd Llangatwg on 21 April; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Cwm Cadlan NNR; Rhaslas Pond on 11 July; CARMARTHEN: drumming at Usk Res. on 1 June; alarm call at Llyn Llech Owain on 2 June; CEREDIGION: six territories along R. Camddwr; present at RSPB Ynys-hir, Cors Fochno, Cors Caron, Llyn Mynydd Gorddu; BRECON: 14 displayed at sites in the west of the county in early May (and at most were present until at least late June): three near Coed y Rhaiadr, two at Maen Llia, four at Afon Llia, two at Crai village and three at Penwaundwr, Crai; present at Waun Rydd (Pontsticill), Cefn Esgair-Carnau, Pont-ar-Wysg and Waun Leuci; MONTGOMERY: moorland above Lake Vyrnwy holds a stable breeding population; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at Tan yr Allt; two drumming at Moel yr Henfaes on 27 April; one chipping at Pennal on 23 May; present at Glandyfi on 7 May; drumming at Mynydd Dol-cyn-afon, Abergeirw, on 29 June; CAERNARFON: Llyn Ystumllyn on 18 April; Llyn Coch, Moel Wnion, on several dates between 16 March and 2 Sept.; DENBIGH: displayed at World's End on 15 May and at Fenn's Moss on 3 June; present at Garreg Ddu, Moel Arthur and on the Migneint above Gwytherin and near Moel Seisiog; FLINT: present around Glascoed.

Non-breeding: the mean BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen by 27% between 2013-15 and 2019-21, but both of the last two years will have been affected by lockdowns.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥40 birds at least once during the year.

≥40 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN										
Rumney Great Wharf	50		5					8		
CARMARTHEN										
Penclacwydd	5	117		9		2	4	4	25	2
Gwendraeth estuary	7	2	17			1	8		3	75
PEMBROKE										
Cleddau estuary	83		32				1	17	11	48
Castlemartin Corse	40	100	30				40	4	40	100
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION										
Teifi Marshes/estuary	9	11	3	3		2		2	11	250+
BRECON										
Llangorse Lake	25		2	12		1	9	15	150	72
Mynydd Illtyd	82	55	46				11	74	49	71
Y Gors, Trecastle									55+	24+
CAERNARFON										
Pwllheli						2	4	74		2
Foryd/Morfa Dinlle	1	*c.*20	43	4		14	7	48	35	134
ANGLESEY										
RSPB Cors Ddyga	102		4	6		12	13	118	*c.*500	110
RSPB Valley Wetlands	127	27	58	9			8	36	100	150
Traeth Coch	24	2						75		
Talwrn	50									*c.*75

Other counts ≥40: CARMARTHEN: *c.*75 at Pembrey Burrows on 6 March; CEREDIGION: 58 at Cors Caron on 8 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 58 flushed from one grazing unit on Vanner Farm marsh, Mawddach est., on 19 March; ANGLESEY: 74 at Traeth Melynog in Dec.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* LLYDANDROED GYDDFGOCH

Scarce passage migrant. WBRC: 69 previous records.

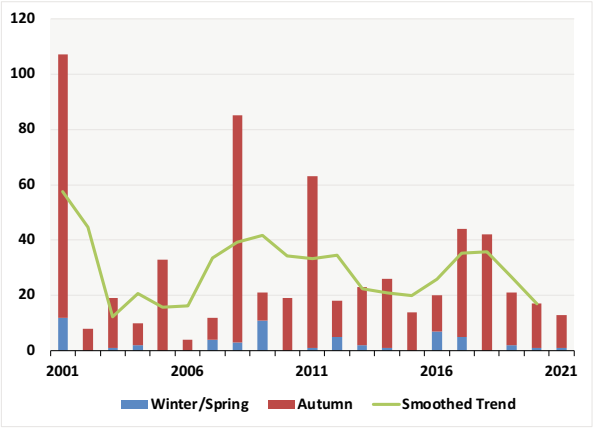
PEMBROKE: female off The Smalls lighthouse on 23 June.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* LLYDANDROED LLWYD

Uncommon and irregular passage migrant, predominantly to coastal areas during September-October. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**21**	**26**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Grey Phalaropes recorded in Wales, 2001-21



The lowest annual total since 2007 and the first time this century that numbers have declined in four consecutive years.

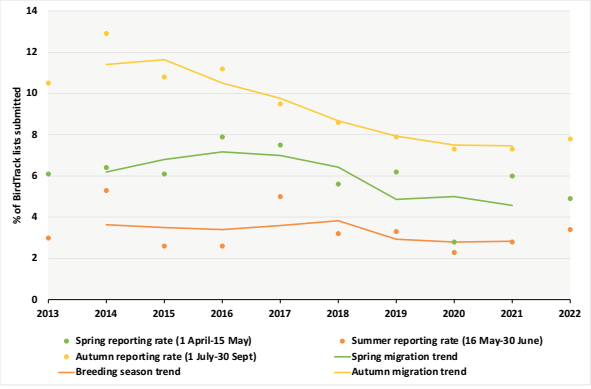
Singles unless stated: GOWER: Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 12-17 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. on 20 Oct.; two passed Strumble Head on 1 Nov. and one on 26th; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 19 Sept. and 5 Oct.; Aberystwyth/Tanybwlch on 11-13 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Trwyn Porthdinllaen on 29 Sept.; Aberdaron on 3 Oct.; Bardsey on 21 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 16 July; Red Wharf Bay on 28 Nov.; DENBIGH: on floods at Fenn's Moss on 15-20 Nov., an unusual inland record; FLINT: Flint on 3 Jan.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* PIBYDD DORLAN

Summer visitor that breeds in most counties, but declining (490 pairs). Around 20 over-winter, though up to 40 in some years. Wales Amber listed (Red prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	810	927
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

BirdTrack reporting rates: Common Sandpiper in Wales 2013-21



Breeding: the Waterways Breeding Bird Survey index for the UK has fallen steadily, by 37% (1995-2020) and the UK Breeding Bird Survey index fell by 28% during the same period. There is no separate trend for Wales for either scheme. The mean BirdTrack reporting rate was 24% lower in 2019-21 than 2013-15, but the breeding season trend has fallen by less than the rates for spring and, in particular, autumn migration.

Summary of breeding season records: GWENT: on R. Usk, bred at Llanfoist, probably at Gobion and possibly at Llanellen; probably bred at Clytha; possibly bred at Garnlydan Res.; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Nant Moel Res. and Llwyn-on Res.; possibly bred at Hirwaun opencast and Hirwaun siding; GOWER: possibly bred on R. Tawe near Ynystawe and on R. Neath; CARMARTHEN: probably/possibly bred at Llyn Pencarreg, Dinefwr Ponds, Abergwili, Llangunnor and R. Pysgotwr; CEREDIGION: probably bred at Craig Clyngwyn near confluence of R. Doethie and Tywi; BRECON: 22 sites held 1-2 birds apparently holding territory; six juveniles on R. Usk between Llansantffraed and Pencelli; broods on Beacons and Talybont Res.; RADNOR: probably bred at Dolymynach Res.; possibly on Garreg Ddu Res., Pen y Garreg Res. and at three sites on R. Wye; MEIRIONNYDD: brood on R. Gam, Migneint; at least one pair bred at Llyn Trawsfynydd and one pair at Llynnau Cregennen; min. four territories on Llyn Tegid, one at Llyn Celyn, one at Llyn Tanygrisiau and one on R. Mawddach near Maentwrog; three birds at Llyn Arenig Fawr and 1-2 on R. Glaslyn at Pont Croesor; CAERNARFON: bred at Cors Bodgynydd; probably bred at Tal y Cafn reedbed; two pairs at Llyn Eigiau and single pairs at Llyn y Gadair, Nant Ffrancon, Bethesda and Llyn Bochlwyd; in suitable habitat at 12 other sites; DENBIGH: bred at Aled Isaf Res. and Llyn Brenig; probably bred at RSPB Conwy; present at Acrefair, Hanmer Mere, Fenn's Moss and Llyn Alwen.

Non-breeding: numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey in Wales have been stable for over 25 years, whereas they have declined in England and Scotland.

First winter period, all singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: three on Ogmore est. in Jan. and two here in Feb. and March; one on Rhymney est. in Jan. and Feb.; one at Rumney Great Wharf on 1 Feb.; GOWER: three on Afan est. on 5 Jan., two here on 15 and 22 Feb. and one on 1 March; two at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 8 Jan. and three here on 28 Jan.; five at Port Talbot Harbour on 22 Jan., Castell-du on 24 Jan.; Penclawdd WTW on 1 March; CARMARTHEN: Commissioners' Bridge from 17 Feb. to 25 March; PEMBROKE: four on Cleddau est. in Jan.; two on Nevern est. in Jan. and Feb.; Aberfforest from Jan. to March; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. in Jan. and Feb.; CEREDIGION: Dyfi est. throughout the winter; near Swyddffynnon on 26 Feb.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Madryn on 1 Jan.; Bangor on 22 Feb.; Dwygyfylchi on 27 Feb.; ANGLESEY: Church Island, Menai Strait, on 6 Feb.; DENBIGH: R. Elwy at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 9 March; FLINT: two on Clwyd est. on 16 Feb., one remaining into late March; Queensferry on 11 Feb.; Flint Marsh on 1 and 5 March.

Spring passage, max. counts ≥3: GWENT: survet of R. Usk recorded 26 in April and 12 in May (Tyler and Clarke 2021); nine at Llanwenarth on 16 April; E.GLAMORGAN: seven in Cardiff Bay and seven at Ogmore est. in April; GOWER: three on R. Neath on 8 March; CARMARTHEN: nine at Dredger Jetty, Pwll, on 19 April; PEMBROKE: five on Cleddau est. in March; five on Nevern est. in April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: five on Teifi est. in April; CEREDIGION: three at Tanybwlch and three on R. Leri in April; BRECON: three at Llangasty on 9 April; MEIRIONNYDD: four on Broadwater on 25 April; four at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 27 April; CAERNARFON: three between The Spinnies and Morfa Aber on 25 April; three nocturnal sound recordings over Penrhyn Bay on each of 18 and 30 April, and 2 May; ANGLESEY: three at Cemlyn on 20 and 24 April; DENBIGH: three at RSPB Conwy on 24-25 and 29 April; FLINT: seven on Clwyd est. on 21 April.

Post-breeding and autumn passage counts ≥7: E.GLAMORGAN: 11 on Ogmore est. in July; GOWER: seven at Castell-du on 21 July; CARMARTHEN: 14 at Kidwelly Marsh on 25 July; PEMBROKE: seven at Swanlake on 19 July; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 10 on Teifi est. on 31 July; CEREDIGION: eight at Aberystwyth on 10 July; 10 at Glandyfi on 18 July; ANGLESEY: seven at Cemlyn on 18 July; eight on Alaw est. on 2 Aug.; up to 12 on Cefni est. in July and Aug.; FLINT: seven on Clwyd est. on 8 July.

Second winter period, all singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: four on Ogmore est. in Nov. and two here in Dec.; Cardiff Bay in Nov. and Dec.; Llanishen/Lisvane Res. in Dec.; Rhymney est. in Dec.; GOWER: 1-3 at Penclawdd, Neath saltmarsh, Afan est. and Eglwys Nunydd Res.; CARMARTHEN: Llyn Pencarreg on 16 Dec.; Llangennech Marsh on 30 Dec.; PEMBROKE: three at Nevern est. in Nov. and two here in Dec.; four on Cleddau est. in Dec.; Gann est. in Dec.; Lower Town, Fishguard, in Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 6-9 Nov.; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: Dyfi est. in Oct.-Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: three on Mawddach est. on 7 Nov.; Broadwater on 11 Nov.; Glaslyn/Dwyryd est. in Dec.; ANGLESEY: Holyhead Harbour from 19 Nov. into 2022; DENBIGH: Lleweni Watermeadows on 8 Nov.; FLINT: Shotton on 21 Nov.; Flint Marsh on 7 Nov. and 19 Dec.; Clwyd est. on 26 and 28 Dec.

2019 GWENT, additional records: pair bred at one site and probably at another; eight at Gobion in April and June; in the second winter period, singles recorded at Gobion in Dec. (two on 8 Nov.), Llandegfedd Res. and Ynysfro Res.

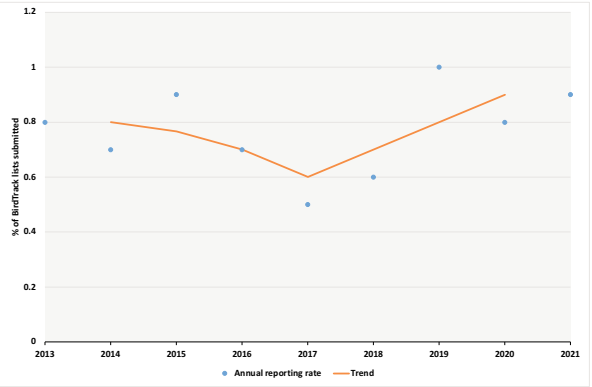
GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* PIBYDD GWYRDD

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Amber WeBS alerts: -48% long-term and -30% medium term, but short-term increase is 93%. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	217	244
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

There is no Wetland Bird Survey trend for Wales, but that for the UK has been relatively stable since the mid-1990s. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales is low, but has remained steady except for 2017-18.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Green Sandpiper in Wales 2013-21



Monthly max. counts on R. Usk, GWENT, and on R.Ely, E.GLAMORGAN

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R. Usk, GWENT	4	5	3	1					1			
R. Ely, E.GLAMORGAN												
Pendoylan/Peterston		2	7	3		3	9	7	4	3	4	8
Dyffryn Bach incl. pools			2			2	4	2		4	2	3
Elswhere on R. Ely				1							3	

Elsewhere in the first winter period, all singles unless stated: GWENT: one on R. Monnow at Llangua meadows on 15 Jan., two here on 14 Feb. and 14 March; E.GLAMORGAN: Sully Moors on 15 Jan.; Pymbylu Moors on 25 Jan.; Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve on 25 Jan.; GOWER: two at Wernffrwd on 12 Feb.; R. Neath on 6 and 8 March; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd in Jan. and four here in Feb.; two on Gwendraeth est. and one at Dryslwyn/Cilsan in Feb.; CEREDIGION: Cockshead on 21 Jan.; Salem on 14 March; R. Clettwr from 2021 until 1 April; Teifi Marshes on 6 March; MEIRIONNYDD: Glandyfi on 12 Feb.; two west of Dyfi Bridge on 29 March; ANGLESEY: 1-2 on flooded field

near Valley from 13 Jan. to 29 March at least; Inland Sea on 8 Feb.; RSPB Valley Wetlands in Feb.; Alaw est. on 7 March; DENBIGH: R. Dee near Farndon on 4 Jan. and two here on 1 March; FLINT: Caergwrle WTW on 21 Jan.; Shotwick Boating Lake on 27 Jan.; White Sands on 27 Jan. and 24 Feb.; two at Shotwick Park on 3 Feb.

Counts of ≥4 on passage: CARMARTHEN: four on Gwendraeth est. in Aug.; four at Penclacwydd in Sept.; CEREDIGION: seven at RSPB Ynys-hir/Glandyfi on 1 and 3 Sept.

Second winter period, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. in Nov.; GOWER: Llanrhidian on 18 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: two at Penclacwydd in Nov. and Dec.; Gwendraeth est. and Dryslwyn/Cilsan in Nov.; PEMBROKE: Hook-Sprinkle Pill on 13 Nov.; CEREDIGION: two on R. Clettwr in Nov.; two at RSPB Ynys-hir in Nov. and four here in Dec.; Cors Caron on 28 Nov.; BRECON: Camlais Brook on 27 Nov.; Llangasty Pt on 28 Nov.; R. Usk at Scethrog on 22 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren in Jan. to March; MEIRIONNYDD: Glandyfi from 6 Nov. to 4 Dec.; two at Pont Croesor on 10 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 19 Dec.; ANGLESEY: two in flooded fields near Valley on 2 Nov.; DENBIGH: Fenn's Moss on 8 and 15 Nov.; Holt on 10 Dec.; Llay Pool on 17 and 19 Dec.; NT Erddig on 21-29 Dec.; FLINT: Flint saltmarsh on 7 Nov.; two at Shotwick Boating Lake on 13 Dec. and one here on 17th and 19th; Llay Pond on 17 and 19 Dec.

2019 GWENT, additional records: six at Llanfihangl Gobion on 8 Nov., and singles at The Warrage, St Brides, Llangybi and Ynysfro Res.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* PIBYDD COESGOCH

Localised and declining breeding species, now confined chiefly to saltmarshes. Abundant around the coast in winter, but 52% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3037	2682
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	11%

Breeding season: 117 pairs bred at six sites (mean productivity 0.6 chicks/pair where monitored) and may have bred at two other sites. GWENT: 24 pairs fledged 23 young at Newport Wetlands Reserve (0.96/pair); CEREDIGION: 37 pairs fledged 18 young at RSPB Ynys-hir (0.49/pair); four pairs bred at Cors Fochno; six birds at Cors Caron on 1 April, three here on 15 April and two on 31 May so presumed breeding; MEIRIONNYDD: two pairs fledged five young at Penllyn (2.5/pair); pair on territory at Mochras saltings on 13 May; bird calling from saltmarsh at Penmaenpool on 27 May; FLINT: 49 pairs at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (productivity 0.5 chicks/pair).

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥300 birds at least once during the year.

≥300 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	300	650	600	62			450			100	2500	1+
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	86	295	158	59	1	5	275	450	334	375	27	45
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	297		331						379	496	459	678
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1000+	*c.*250	410	7	1	9	45	316	464	1043	2085	1488
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	412	553	149						75	119	478	149
DENBIGH												
Conwy estuary	35	36	116	*c.*70		4	269	454	516	426	388	323
FLINT												
Point of Ayr/Talacre	150	13	250	7		1	40	5	25	350	500	200
Mostyn	36		271	650			150	650	800			
Walwen		800		135	2			18	31	5		50
Bagillt	1				1		15	1000	1	23	32	3
Flint saltmarsh	25+		725	850	39		145	1910	1750	441	410	158
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR	230+		700	100		*c.*40	3000	3000	4000	3000	600	350+
Clwyd estuary	336	421	*c.*110	86	2	30+	*c.*90	*c.*125	137	*c.*220	*c.*210	*c.*340

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales was relatively stable in the 25 years to 2019/20, very different to England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, which recorded declines. The counts on the Dee, which peaked at over 10,300 across the whole estuary in Sept., make it the most

important site in Britain. The reduced BirdTrack reporting rate in 2021 will, at least in part, be a product of fewer lists being submitted in the first winter period during lockdown, but had been showing signs of reduction prior to 2020.

Other counts ≥300: CARMARTHEN: 368 at Lliedi river mouth on 17 Sept. and 438 here on 1 Oct.

2019 GWENT correction: min. five broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff).

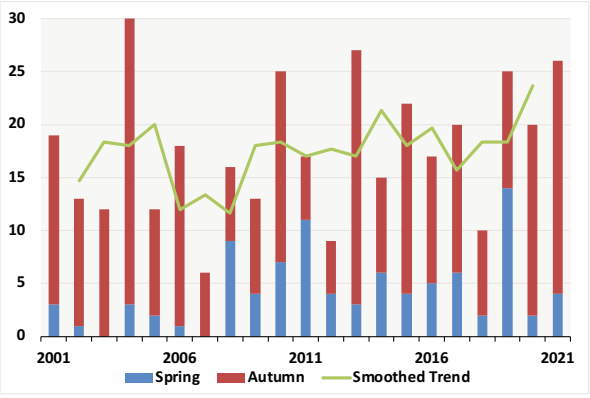
WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* PIBYDD GRAEAN

Uncommon passage migrant, principally in the autumn but with a scattering of spring records. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	55	106
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A total of 26 compared to 20 in 2020, and the best year since 2013 thanks largely to a good number of records in Gwent.

Wood Sandpipers recorded in Wales, based on site maxima, 2001-21



Spring passage (to end of June): GWENT: three at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 June, two on 22nd and one to 27th; ANGLESEY: one at Gorad flood, Valley, on 6 May.

Autumn passage, singles unless stated: GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 20 July, then 1-2 on most dates from 23 July to 1 Aug., with three on 29 July, one here on 11 Aug., three on 21st, then one on most dates from 28 Aug. to 10 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. on 10 Aug.; GOWER: Weobley marsh on 11 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd from 28 July to 10 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Castlemartin Corse on 20-22 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi Marshes on 28 July; CEREDIGION: Cors Caron on 30-31 July; CAERNARFON: over Bardsey on 10 Aug. and 10 Sept; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 12-13 July and 13-23 Aug.; two at Llyn Alaw on 25 Aug. and on 25 Sept.

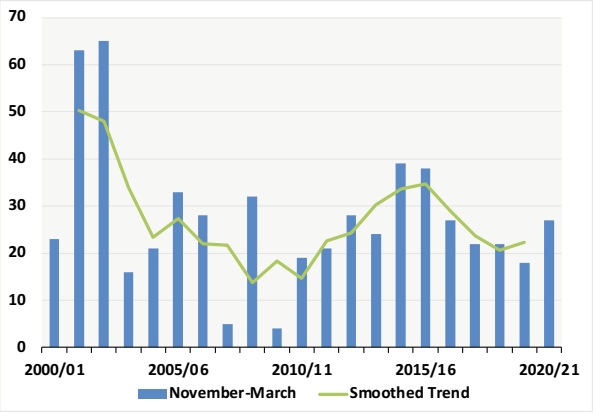
SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Uncommon but regular passage migrant to coastal counties, mainly in autumn. Although only small numbers overwinter, chiefly in the Burry Inlet and Dee estuary, Wales holds >50% of the British population. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	398	483
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The annual Wetland Bird Survey indices for Wales suggest reasonable stability and this is reflected by site records shown here.

Spotted Redshank recorded in Wales, based on peak site counts during Nov.-March, 2000/01-2020/21



Max. monthly counts at sites recording four or more birds at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	3	2	1	1			2	4	2	2	2	2
FLINT												
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR				4		2	10	14	17	15	12	6

Numbers of birds present in each county, including those in the table above:

Monthly records	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT			1	1	1		1	4		1		1
GOWER	1											
CARMARTHEN	3	2	1	2			2	5	3	2	2	2
PEMBROKE	1							1				
CEREDIGION						1			2			
CAERNARFON				1						1	1	
ANGLESEY				1			1	2				
DENBIGH				2		1	1	4	2	1	1	
FLINT	1			4		2	10	14	17	16	12	6

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* PIBYDD COESWYRDD

Locally common in coastal areas on passage, chiefly in autumn, and over winter. Scarce inland. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**1030**	**896**
% of BirdTrack lists	**4%**	**3%**

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached an all-time high in 2019/20, 231% above its value 25 years previously. Although the BirdTrack reporting rate fell relative to 2020, presumably because of travel restrictions in the first winter period, it has otherwise been very stable since 2013.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥15 birds at least once during the year.

≥15 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	12	16	4	3	2		32	55	75	41	34	20
Gwendraeth estuary		1	2	8	2		20	47	7	16	6	8
Tywi estuary									23	3	1	1
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	30	9	34					6	34	44	41	46
CAERNARFON												
Foryd			13	5			14	14	21	21	20	14
Traeth Lafan	11	10	12	2	1		8	17	16	12	19	27
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary	3	10	8		1	7	15	19	24	13	5	4
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	14	8	13							19	13	1
FLINT												
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR			8	5	2		12	24	30	27	12	5

Number of birds present in each county (including site counts above).

Monthly totals	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT			4	5		1	4	5	8	2	1	50*
E.GLAMORGAN	1			2				4	4			
GOWER	10	1-3	1-3	1-3			1	1	6	1		1
CARMARTHEN	12	21	9	15	4		52	102	106	60	41	29
PEMBROKE	33	12	36	10	1	3	7	52	65	71	44	49
CEREDIGION	3	3	2	3	1	1	3	6	21	3	3	3
BRECON					1				2			
RADNOR				2								
MEIRIONNYDD				1					9	7		
CAERNARFON	11	10	25	10	1	1	25	38	46	34	40	42
ANGLESEY	21	21	25	1	2	8	17	29	40	35	31	23
DENBIGH				1		2	5	2	8	4	8	3
FLINT	2	3	9	5	2	1	14	26	45	31	14	7

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* GWYLAN GOESDDU

Declining breeder in coastal areas from Gower to Caernarfonshire (-35% during 1986-2015). Large numbers occur offshore on passage. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**433**	**576**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**2%**

Breeding counts: 4038 AON (*cf*. 4414 at the same sites in 2019 or 2020). Increases at several colonies were outweighed by declines at some significant sites such as Skomer, the Little Orme and Puffin Island, which is the long-term trend across Britain. On the up side, the number of nests on Bardsey was 57.5% greater the 10-year mean, the highest total since 2011. Shaded figures show declines since the previous count.

County/Site	AON	Previous count (year)
GOWER		
Mumbles Pier/Head	191	152 (2020)
PEMBROKE		
St Margaret's Island	271	225 (2019)
Castlemartin peninsula	0	0 (2020)
Skomer	1439	1681 (2020)
Ramsey	51	85 (2020)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	181	142 (2020)
Carreg y Llam	*c.*614	627 (2019)
Great Orme	898	854 (2019)
Little Orme	180	324 (2019)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB South Stack	10	11 (2019)
Puffin Island	203	313 (2019)
Ynys Moelfre	*c.*25	

Nest productivity (young/breeding pair). GOWER: 115 young at Mumbles Pier (0.6/nest); PEMBROKE: 366 young in 463 AON at seven study plot sites on Skomer (0.79/nest), the highest nest productivity since 2010, above both the historical average of 0.69 (1989-2020) and the five-year average (0.59) (Newman *et al*. 2021); CAERNARFON: 268 young on Bardsey (1.48/nest), an impressive 115.5% above the 10-year mean.

Max. day counts from coastal watchpoints.

Monthly counts	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Mumbles Pier/Head		*c.*100	160	300	483	318	331	267	284	215		
PEMBROKE												
Skokholm		1	81	63	91	254	244	51	258	531	437	1175
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey			33	230	190	200	603	507	11,172	9790		
Great Orme			*c.*500	*c.*130	300+	300+		*c.*350				
Little Orme	2	2	*c.*70	3	*c.*70	100+						3
ANGLESEY												
Point Lynas								595	545	1800	1800	
Cemlyn			120					810			450	

Notable non-breeding records included large numbers in Cardigan Bay and off West Wales in Sept.: GWENT: max. 11 at Goldcliff Pt on 31 Oct.;

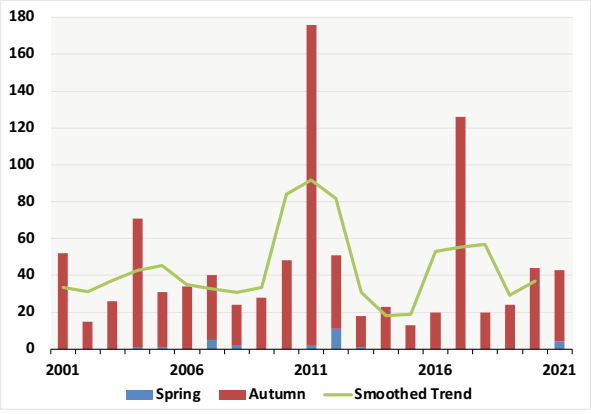
E.GLAMORGAN: max. 280 off Cardiff Bay barrage on 11 March; 45 at Lavernock Pt on 12 March; 31 at Sker Pt on 11 May; 76 at Lavernock Pt on 31 Oct.; GOWER: max. 53 at Penclawdd lower marsh on 11 March; 110 at Port Eynon on 1 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*50 at Cefn Sidan on 12 June, *c.*75 here on 27 July, *c.*50 on 10 and 22 Aug. and *c.*200 on 23 Aug.; 200 off Telpyn Pt on 22 Sept. and *c.*175 here on 26th; 1CY at Talley Lakes on 5 Dec. was the first inland record since 1987; PEMBROKE: 1067 off Monkstone Pt on 28 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 1500 at Cei bach on 10 Sept. and 2000 here on 12 Sept., many of which were colour-ringed at French colonies; 1000 passed Mwnt on 29 Sept., 2000 here on 1 Oct. and 1330 on 5th; BRECON: single adults at Llangorse Lake on 16 March and 9 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 400 at Broadwater/Aberdysynni on 12 Sept.; 40 off Llwyngwril on 23 Sept.; CAERNARFON: *c.*50 at Foryd/Dinas Dinlle on 11 May; 123 at Porth Ysgaden on 10 July; 176 on Dwyfor est. on 6 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 156 sheltering in Holyhead Harbour following a storm on 8 Dec.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini* GWYLAN SABINE

Uncommon visitor to the coast in autumn, numbers vary according to the frequency of westerly gales. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	20	13
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Sabine's Gulls recorded in Wales, 2001-21



A very average total included the first spring record since 2013 and one of only eight since 1966: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 22 May; PEMBROKE: adult and three 1CY passed Strumble Head on 1 Oct., two 1CY here on 3rd, three 1CY on 4th, three adults on 5th, five adults and 1CY on 6th, and two adults and 1CY on 21st; adult off Skomer on 25 Oct.; CEREDIGION: adult with a damaged leg at Aberystwyth on 21-22 May and Borth on 24 May; adult passed Mwnt on 19 Sept., 1CY here on 23 Sept., one on 29th and 1CY on 1 Oct.; CAERNARFON: two 1CY passed Bardsey on 29 Sept., one here on 3 Oct., three on 4th and an adult and 1CY on 6th; 1CY passed Porth Ysgaden on 23 Sept.; ANGLESEY: one passed RSPB South Stack on 25 May; 1CY passed Pt Lynas on 1 Oct. and adult here on 6th, which may have been the same at Amlwch Port and Cemlyn on the same day; also 1CY off Cemlyn on 6th and passed Pt Lynas on 21st.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* GWYLAN BONAPARTE

Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 28 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY at Cardiff Bay on 14, 20 and 21 Feb. and from 18 April to 6 May, joined by 5CY+ from 24 April to 2 May (the latter considered to be a returning individual last seen on 22 April 2019); PEMBROKE: adult at Gann est. on 15 Nov., assumed to be the returning bird from Oct./Nov. 2020.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* GWYLAN BENDDU

Locally common breeding species. Abundant and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	6010	6441
% of BirdTrack lists	29%	29%

Breeding (AON unless stated) and productivity (fledged young/breeding pair): CARMARTHEN: 399 pairs at Penclacwydd *(cf.* 405 in 2020); CEREDIGION: small numbers at Cors Caron and Gorsgoch in June but no breeding reported; MONTGOMERY: *c.*200 pairs at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas were affected by floods in May but eventually fledged about 100 young (*c.*0.5/pair); CAERNARFON: 3-4 AON and at least two chicks fledged at Morfa Madryn; ANGLESEY: *c.*262 pairs fledged *c.*225-250 young at Cemlyn (0.86-0.95/pair); 37 AON and min. 14 fledged (0.38/pair) at a site in western Anglesey; DENBIGH: 8 AON on old brickworks pools at Fenn's,

Whixall and Bettisfield Moss NNR on 27 May; FLINT: 408 AON at Shotton Steelworks fledged 562 chicks (1.38 young/nest, *cf*. 0.97 in 2020); 960 AON at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, of which approx. 25% (240 AON) were in Wales; bred at Connah's Quay NR.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales declined by 28% in the 25 years to 2019/20.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥1000 birds at least once during the year.

≥1000 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands	P	P	8	12	9	136	1500	866	429	523	100	650
Peterstone Wentlooge			140	P	P	213	1100	640	500	1300	1000	230
Undy			83				1960	1260	1190	226	498	48
Caldicot Pill	27	25	23			29	650+	854	1000+	650+	200+	13
All rivers survey	704	1036	347	1								
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	700	770	2500	1400	489	1	1802	645	70	209	830	650
Cardiff Bay heliport	647		120		40	250	317			1500		250
GOWER												
Upper Loughor estuary		77	104	12	104	109	450	800	1053	287	204	129
Penclawdd	47	2030	87	94	87	29	140	520	255	283	204	110
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	632		196						1886	787	1168	768
Llys-y-fran Reservoir											1600	2500
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	*1035	100	700						29	50	*1250	500
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	*c*.500	*c*.20	*c*.10	100+	130	450	1764	1190	610	201	200+	150

* roost counts

Other counts ≥1000: E.GLAMORGAN: 2000 at Rhymney est. on 26 July; GOWER: 1200+ at Ashleigh Road, Swansea, on 19 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: *c*.1000 at Mochras/Artro est. on 25 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 2500 at Aberdaron on 23 Nov.; ANGLESEY: max. *c*.5000 fed on invertebrates drowned by flooding at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 17 Nov.; DENBIGH: max. *c*.1200 at Holt Fields on 19 March; 1400 at Pensarn on 2 Dec.; FLINT: 2400 at Bagillt on 16 Jan.; 2210 at Clwyd est. on 24 Feb.; 2000 at Connah's Quay NR on 20 and 26 July; 2000 at Pt of Ayr on 22 Aug.

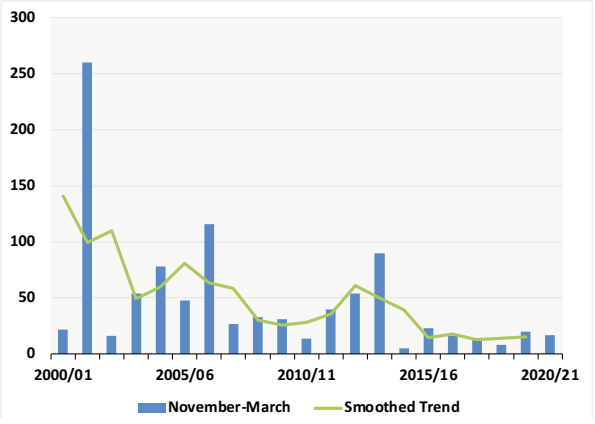
2019 GWENT, additional record: 1000 at Caldicott Pill in Sept.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* GWYLAN FECHAN

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to the coast Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**55**	**90**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Wintering Little Gulls recorded in Wales, based on county max. during Nov.-March, 2001-21



The number of Little Gulls overwintering within sight of the Welsh coast has been falling, particularly since 2014/15. The total for the year was a minimum of 142, which included a flock of 12 in E.GLAMORGAN in April and at least eight on ANGLESEY during Storm Arwen on 27 Nov. All single birds unless stated:

First winter period/spring migration, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY from 26 Feb. to 2 March, joined by an adult on 27 Feb. that remained until 9 March; a remarkable flock of 12 (six adults and six 2CY) on 24 April of which three adults and 2CY remained on 25-26 April; CARMARTHEN: 2CY at Machynys on 16

May and probably same at Burry Port later that day; PEMBROKE: 2CY at Amroth on 19 Feb.; 2CY on Nevern est. on 22 Feb.; CEREDIGION: adult and 2CY at Llanrhystud on 27 March; two 2CY at Aberystwyth on 3 April; MEIRIONNYDD: two adults on R. Glaslyn on 22 April; CAERNARFON: 3CY at Llyn Bach on 23 Feb., one here on 2 May, two on 22 April and one on 30 June; two off the Little Orme on 12 March; Foryd on 13 March; Llandudno Bay on 6 April; Bangor on 26 April; ANGLESEY: two at Beddmanarch Bay in Feb.; 2CY at Llyn Llywenan on 29-31 March; DENBIGH: Rhos-on-sea on 21 Jan.; Llanddulas on 31 March.

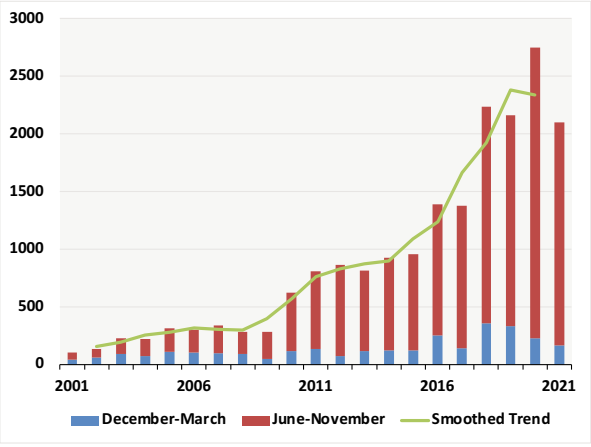
Autumn migration/second winter period: GOWER: two at Port Eynon on 30 Sept. and one here on 1 Oct.; Port Talbot Docks on 26 Nov.; Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 28 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 1CY at Telpyn Pt on 22 and 26 Sept.; PEMBROKE: three 1CY off Strumble Head on 3 Oct. and five 1CY on 1 Nov.; Skomer on 25 Oct.; adults off Skokholm on 22 and 29 Nov.; Wiseman's Bridge on 1 Dec.; Fishguard Harbour on 5 Dec. and two here on 8th; adult on Gann est. on 29 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 1CY at Cei bach from 14 Aug. to 12 Sept.; Llanrhystud on 21 Sept.; two passed Mwnt on 23 Sept.; 2CY at Tanybwlch on 24 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: three 1CY at Llandanwg on 25 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 2CY at Llyn Bach on 30 June and one here on 6 Aug.; Morfa Aber on 19-20 July; two at Llandudno on 4 Aug.; Bardsey on 4 Sept., 11 here on 29th, two on 1 Oct., nine on 3rd, six on 4th, three on 5th and two 1CY on 21st; Aberdaron on 18 Sept., three 1CY here on 3 Oct. and one on 20 Nov.; Porth Ysgaden on 1 Oct.; Porth Neigwl on 9 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Amlwch on 17 and 28 Aug.; adult at Traeth Dulas on 15 Sept.; adult and 1CY at Pt Lynas on 29 Sept., one here on 1 Oct. and possibly the same later at Bull Bay and Cemlyn the same day; Pt Lynas and three at Cemlyn on 6 Oct.; Traeth Lligwy on 13 and 16 Oct.; Cemlyn on 25 Oct.; Pt Lynas on 13 Nov. and two here on 25th; seven off Moelfre, eight (possibly including some Moelfre birds) at Traeth Bychan and an adult at Gallows Pt, Beaumaris, on 27 Nov.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Increasingly common visitor, chiefly to coastal counties, especially in late summer. Small numbers summer (RBBP: 1-6 pairs in 2020) and occasionally breed. Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	823	717
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Mediterranean Gulls recorded in Wales, based on county max. in each season, 2001-21



Breeding: seven pairs fledged five young, the highest Welsh total to date. CARMARTHENSHIRE: six pairs fledged at least three young at Penclacwydd, the second successful year of breeding here, following the first in 2014; MONTGOMERY: adult among Black-headed Gulls at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas from 19 April into May and probably the same at The Flash, Welshpool, on 27 April; ANGLESEY: apparent hybrid adult at a site in western Anglesey paired with a Black-headed Gull but the nest was washed out by a storm on 25 May; 10 at Cemlyn on 20 April, at least one of which was present throughout May, a possible nest with three eggs was recorded on 1 June and an adult regurgitated food to a chick, thought to be a hybrid, on 13 June; FLINT: pair fledged two young on the Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales had been increasing exponentially up to 2019/20, and the same trend is shown in the aggregated county maxima shown in the chart. Interestingly, the BirdTrack reporting rate has been around 3% every year since 2013, indicating that although flock sizes have been increasing, the chances of an encounter have not. Late summer counts in CEREDIGION were lower than in 2020 and there were fewer totals of more than 100 across Wales during the year. The December count off Skokholm was the highest ever in PEMBROKE.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >30 birds at least once during the year.

>30 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Porthcawl to Rest Bay	8	37	5		2			4	1	21	23	16
GOWER												
Bracelet Bay	12	41	14	1		14	100	60	89	181	12	32
Blackpill							94	38	300	27	11	6
Port Eynon							29	89	125	114	22	14
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey		1				15	372	161	100	9		
PEMBROKE												
Angle Bay												
Gann estuary	25+	49	17+	2		3	3	2	15+	20+	25+	45+
Skokholm							2	1		23	213	444
CAERNARFON												
Afon Wen/Penychain							4	42	12		2	
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	9	3					15	77	89	33	1	

Other counts ≥30: GOWER: 66 at Port Talbot Harbour on 23 Aug.; 31 at Langland Bay on 24 Aug.; 50 at Underhill Park on 4 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 34 at Llanelli beach on 16 July; 203 at Dredger Jetty, Pwll, on 31 Aug.; 44 at Machynys on 9 Sept.; PEMBROKE: max. day count at Strumble Head was 50 on 21 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 30 at Llanrhystud on 29 March; 116 at Cei bach on 18 July and 817 here on 18 Aug.; 168 at Aberystwyth on 22 July; >1000 between New Quay and Llanrhystud on 10 Sept.; 250 at Aberaeron on 21 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 38 at Porth Neigwl on 27 Sept.; max. day counts off Bardsey were 70 on 9 Oct. and 58 on 26 Oct.; 55+ at Aberdaron on 5-13 Nov. and 150 here on 19th.

The only inland county with a record was BRECON, where a ringed adult at Ty Mawr Pool, Llanfrynach, on 15 March was the first record since May 2018.

Mediterranean X Black headed Gull

E. GLAMORGAN: Cosmeston Lakes CP on 20 Jan. and 24 Dec.; Penarth on 8. Aug.; Cardiff Bay on 3 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Pt Lynas on 13 Oct.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* GWYLAN GWEUNYDD

Fairly common winter and passage visitor, especially to northeast Wales. Wales Amber listed (Red prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**1364**	**1358**
% of BirdTrack lists	**6%**	**6%**

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales declined by 32% in the 25 years to 2019/20. In less than a decade, the BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen by 19%, from 7.8% of lists in 2013-15 to 6.3% of lists in 2019-21, although travel restrictions will have reduced visits to suitable habitat in the first winter period of 2021. The DENBIGH and FLINT coasts hold large numbers of birds, staging ahead of their return to Scandinavia, but some pasture fields within those counties also appear to be important for feeding birds.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥250 birds at least once during the year.

≥250 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt		1750	1250			9	27	16				
Gwendraeth estuary			157		43		274				310	
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	680		2			1				2	50	89
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	*c.*50	1	3	100+	*c.*250	11	135+	300+	230	*c.*500	2	*c.*340
DENBIGH												
Lleweni Watermeadows			514	2						6	247	38
FLINT												
Gronant	P	22	720	300	36	12	*c.*10	8	*c.*190	550+	*c.*350	*c.*1800
Cilcain North	263	200	480	1						100	4	48
Clwyd estuary	662	100	41	28	1	2	14	22	14	68	55	200

Other counts ≥250 or other notable records: GWENT: 302 during a survey of R. Usk in Feb. (Tyler and Clarke

2021); 200+ at Magor Marsh on 9 Nov.; BRECON: 77 roosted at Llangorse Lake on 27 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 166 at Broadwater in April, a large total in the county; ANGLESEY: 255 at Traeth Coch in Feb.; DENBIGH: *c.*300 at Is-y-coed on 2 Feb.; *c.*700 at Burton Green on 18 Feb.; 260 in the Alun valley south of Mold on 26 Dec.; FLINT: 300 at Flint saltmarsh on 15 March; 800 at Nannerch Fish Pond on 19 March; 1000 at Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22 July; 371 off Hiraddug Road, southeast of Dyserth, on 15 Nov.

Colour-ringing: PEMBROKE: white JE078 at Amroth on 15 Feb. had been ringed as a chick in Rogaland, Norway, in Aug. 2018.

2019 GWENT: 250 near Monmouth on 5 Jan.; 300 at The Warrage on 15 Dec.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis* GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

Scarce (and recently declining) visitor from North America. WBRC: 422 records.

PEMBROKE: adult at Llys-y-fran Res. from 25 Nov. 2020 remained until 14 March.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FAWR

Fairly common and widespread in coastal areas in winter. Widely distributed breeding bird along rocky coastlines in single pairs or small colonies. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Amber listed (Red prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**3243**	**3485**
% of BirdTrack lists	**15%**	**16%**

Breeding colony counts in 2021: 387 AON (*cf.* 342). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	*AON*	*Previous count (year)*
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	8	6 (2019)
St Margaret's Island	67	*c.*32 (2019)
Castlemartin peninsula	3	3 (2019)
Skokholm	80	83 (2020)
Skomer	103	112 (2020)
CAERNARFON		
St Tudwal's Island West	*c.*40	22 (2014)
Bardsey	2	2 (2020)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr & Bach	51	50 (2019)
ANGLESEY		
Llyn Maelog	0	1 (2019)
The Skerries	31	26 (2019)
RSPB Valley Wetlands	3	4 (2019)
RSPB South Stack	2	1 (2019)

Other breeding counts: CAERNARFON: bred/probably bred on the Migneint, Aberdaron, Porth Iago and Traeth Penllech; DENBIGH: single rooftop nests in Towyn and Mochdre; at least three nests on an island at Llyn Brenig and one on a nearby Osprey platform; FLINT: rooftop nest on outskirts of Rhyl.

Nest productivity (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: *c.*1.51 on Skokholm (*cf*. 1.4 in 2020) (Brown and Eagle 2022); 1.68 on Skomer (*cf.*1.42 in 2020 and above the 1996-2020 mean of 1.35; Newman *et al*. 2021); CAERNARFON: 0.67 on Ynys Gwylan Fawr, 4.5% below the 10-year mean; two juveniles on Bardsey (1.0); ANGLESEY: 0.84 on The Skerries (*cf*. 1.04 in 2019).

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has remained fairly stable for the last 25 years, although the year-round BirdTrack reporting rate has been falling since 2014.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥30 birds at least once during the year.

≥30 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	45	10	14	13	3	1	2	2	6	8	3	9
Tywi estuary		2	17	9	10	57	2	1	14	7	5	
PEMBROKE												
Skokholm		57	75	118	139	108	104	124	102	152	79	24
Blucks Pool/Freshwater W.										85	9	9
Gann estuary/Dale	75	29	25	7	1			172	130	100	41	1
Cleddau estuary	41		21						25	26	18	27
Nevern estuary			22	25	2	10		50	7	12	16	8
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	41			5					38	23	4	19
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey			8	8	6	5	13	19	49	150		
Traeth Lafan	*c.*20	4	6	15	3	8	11	38	28	33	13	11
FLINT												
Gronant	3	12	15	6	20	11	10	12	24	46	28	46
Point of Ayr	3	4	6	1		2	8	16	30	30	43	2

Other counts ≥30: GOWER: 55 at Weobley on 23 Aug. and 36 here on 8 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 90 at Druidston Beach on 6 Feb. and 94 here on 12 March; 50 at Higgon's Well on 29 April; 100 on Skomer in May and 138 here in Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 53 adults plus many immatures at Broadwater on 14 Oct.; CAERNARFON: *c.*35 in Llandudno Bay on 3 Dec.; DENBIGH: 50 on Llyn Brenig on 4 April; FLINT: *c.*50 at Connah's Quay NR on 4 Oct.

2019 GWENT: 36 young in nests on Denny Island on 15 June.

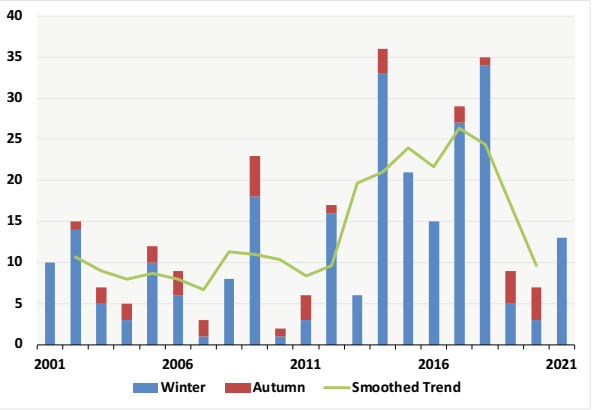
GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas of Wales, chiefly in mid-winter. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	16	32
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Following several 'good' years during 2014-18, records have returned to a more typical pattern. All singles unless stated.

Glaucous Gulls recorded in Wales, 2001-21



First winter period: GWENT: St Brides on 4 March; PEMBROKE: 2CY on Gann est. from 26 March to 6 April; 2CY at Llanrhian on 6 May; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 2CY on Teifi est. on 18-23 March; CEREDIGION: 2CY at RSPB Ynys-hir on 5 Jan.; Ynyslas on 30 March; 1CY at Aberystwyth on 22 May; MEIRIONNYDD: 2CY at Glandyfi on 8 Jan. and the same or another at Aberdyfi on 12 March; subadult at Penllyn on 20 April; ANGLESEY: 2CY west at Hen Borth on 14 April.

Second winter period: PEMBROKE: 1CY at Skokholm on 2 Dec.; CEREDIGION: adult at RSPB Ynys-hir on 8 Dec., also at Pennal, MEIRIONNYDD on the same date.

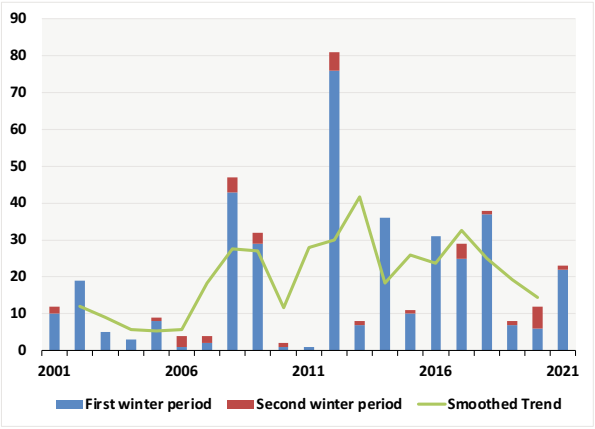
ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	40	263
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

There has been no strong trend in numbers since around 2008. It was a better year than the previous two, almost reaching the average of 2010-19. All single 2CY birds unless stated:

Iceland Gulls recorded in Wales, 2001-21



First winter period: GWENT: Peterstone Wentlooge on 9 Jan., same as at Rumney Great Wharf, E. GLAMORGAN, on the same day; GOWER: Kenfig Ind. Estate on 12 Jan. and Swansea Marina barrage on 14th; CARMARTHEN: two west of Pendine on 4 Feb. (also in Pembroke); Telpyn Pt on 20 March; PEMBROKE: Panteg on 4 Jan.; Llys-y-fran Res. on 10 Jan., 21 and 28 Feb.; up to two at Amroth on 1-13 Feb. (as Carmarthen); Fishguard Harbour on 16 Feb. and 27 March; Gann est. on 19-23 March; Skokholm on 22 March, 4 and 6 April; Nevern est. on 29 March; Tenby on 27 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 17 Feb., 22-30 March and 28-29 April; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 24 March; ANGLESEY: Hen Borth on 17-19 April; DENBIGH: Kinmel Bay on 27 and 30 March; FLINT: Brickfields NR, Rhyl, from 1 Jan. to 29 April; RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 14 March.

Second winter period: E. GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Lavernock Pt on 8 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 1CY at Llys-y-fran Res. on 16 and 19 Dec. and at Pembroke Millpond on 28-29 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1CY on Teifi est. on 28 Nov.; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 7 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 1CY on the Little Orme from 19 Dec. into 2022.

***L.g. kumlieni* (Kumlien's Gull / Gwylan yr Arctig Kumlien)**

Rare winter visitor from North America. WBRC: 12 previous records.

E. GLAMORGAN: 2CY on Ogmore est. on 4-18 Jan., 8 and 17 Feb., also at Kenfig Pool on 16 Jan., Cosmeston Lakes CP on 3 and 5 Feb., and Sker Pt and Pink Bay on 15 Feb.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* GWYLAN PENWAIG

Fairly common breeder in coastal areas, declining on natural nest sites but increasing on rooftops. Widespread in winter, including inland. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	10544	11559
% of BirdTrack lists	52%	54%

Coastal colony breeding counts in 2021: 4268 AON (*cf.* 4529). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	*AON*	*Previous count (year)*
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	1950	1832 (2019)
St Margaret's Island	235	231 (2019)
Castlemartin peninsula	174	210 (2019)
Skokholm	305	301 (2020)
Skomer	271	298 (2020)
CAERNARFON		
St Tudwal's Island West	*c.*300	*c.*408 (2016)
Bardsey	337	423 (2020)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr	57	89 (2019)
ANGLESEY		
The Skerries	563	665 (2019)
RSPB South Stack Cliffs	76	71 (2019)
RSPB Valley Wetlands	1	1 (2019)

Nest productivity (young/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 0.84 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.33 in 2020) (Brown and Eagle 2022); no chicks fledged from the study plot on Skomer for the first year since monitoring began in 1962 (*cf*. 0.25 in 2020) (Newman *et al*. 2021); CAERNARFON: 0.48 on Bardsey (*cf*. 0.54 in 2020 and 23.9% below the 10-year mean based on a sample of 248 nests in the North End colony); 0.95 on Ynys Gwylan Fawr, 11.3% above the 2012-21 mean; ANGLESEY: 0.85 on The Skerries (*cf*. 0.23 in 2019).

A minimum of 197 AON in at least 37 rooftop locations in 12 counties:

County/Site	*AON*		*County/Site*	*AON*
E.GLAMORGAN			GOWER	
Cardiff - Colchester Avenue	3		Afan Way – Port Talbot	6
Western Avenue Retail Park	5		Port Talbot Docks	25
Unite Student Flats, Gabalfa	1		The Quays, Briton Ferry	8+
Heath Hospital	1		Oystermouth	bred
Forest Farm	1		Swansea Bay Studio Roof	several
Tyndall Industrial Estate	1		Port Talbot town centre	6+
Wattstown	1		Neath Abbey factory	several
MEIRIONNYDD			Southward Lane, Langland	1
Fairbourne	min. 2		Lidl, Gorseinon	1
DENBIGH			FLINT	
Tir Llwyd Ind. Park, Towyn	min. 26		Rhuddlan	min. 6
BT Openreach, Mochdre	min. 17		Rhyl ind. Estate (Marsh Tracks)	4
			Rhyl Marine Lake area	3

Other breeding records: GWENT: 7+ nests on factories near Brynmawr Ponds; GOWER: bred at Devil's Truck, Rhossili; BRECON: 1+ AON at Ynyscedwen Ind. Estate; MONTGOMERY: small numbers on factory roofs in Welshpool and Newtown; MEIRIONNYDD: 9 AON at Craig yr Aderyn; bred at Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: nested at Borth-y-gest, Great Orme, Little Orme and Llyn Elsi; roof nests at Craigside, Penrhynside, Llandudno West Shore, Rhos-on-sea and Penmaenmawr; ANGLESEY: 60 adults with well grown young at derelict Lairds Factory, Llanfaes; DENBIGH: 22 nests with young (17 on a building) at Llanddulas quarry; 2 AON at RSPB Conwy; nested at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: 1 AON at Brickfields NR, Rhyl; roof nests in Mold, Prestatyn, Rhyl and St Asaph Business Park.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales had increased steadily until 2017/18, before dropping back. It is one of the most frequently recorded species on BirdTrack, but the recording rate has dipped since a peak in 2016.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥1000 birds at least once during the year.

≥1000 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Flat Holm		200	300	1400	250						18	22
GOWER												
Llanrhidian	11	24	48	4	22	22	268	1030	240	111	44	
Weobley							44	1100			66	
Whiteford				37	133	*c.*210	*c.*160	1080	325	*c.*700		
Aberavon	330	423	259	109	136		42	*c.*200	150	346	*c.*1000	147
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	1300	267	200	126	38	14	10	4	26	45	84	650
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	300		155	250					179	280	1000	449
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey			332	492	358	500	644	765	401	3500		
DENBIGH												
Llanddulas	117		*c.*300	30		*c.*50		5	1000	400	10+	2037
Pensarn				*c.*400	12			17			54	6000
Horton's Nose	108	487	112	100	32	64	98	38	30	31	51	1342
FLINT												
Gronant	96	476	1285	566	1499	*c.*450	654	518	454	*c.*2500	687	*c.*5300
Point of Ayr	20+	157	4000	400		700	1000	2500	500	1500	1000	1500

Other counts ≥1000 or interesting records: GOWER: *c.*1000 at Knab Rock on 11 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 1513 at Druidston Beach on 12 March; CEREDIGION: 1000 at Llanilar on 16 Jan.; BRECON: 1600 at Pontsticill Res. in Dec.

2019 GWENT: bred at Llanwern steelworks, Newport Port, Liberty Steel and Brynmawr, and one pair probably bred on Denny Island.

Herring X Glaucous Gull ("Viking Gull")
CAERNARFON: 2CY on Bardsey from mid-Jan. to mid-March, appears to be the first county record of this hybrid.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* GWYLAN BONTAIDD

Rare visitor from eastern Europe and central Asia. WBRC: 15 previous records.

Four new birds, with another two returning individuals. All were singles. GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 2 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Cardiff Bay from 28 Nov. 2020 to at least 3 March (as a 2CY) and again here on 23-28 Nov.; another 2CY at Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve on 1 Jan., the first time that two have occurred together in Wales; PEMBROKE: adult X290 (ringed in Germany) on Gann est. on 16 Nov. and Frainslake beach, Castlemartin Range, on 19 Dec., seen previously at Llanrhystud, Ceredigion, in March 2017 and Nevern est., Pembrokeshire, in July 2017; unringed adult on Gann est. on 30 Nov. and 12-16 Dec.; 1CY at Fishguard on 5 Nov.

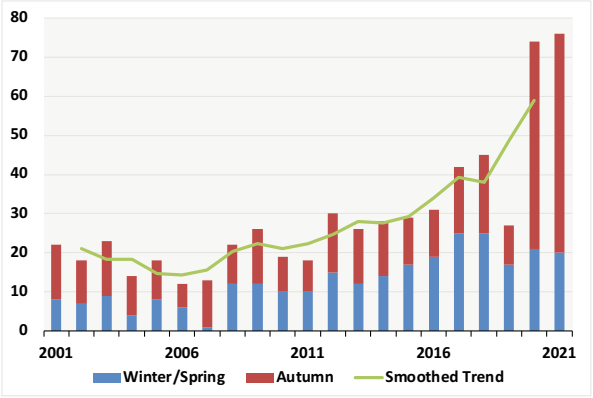
YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* GWYLAN GOESFELEN

Uncommon and irregular autumn/winter visitor to coastal areas, especially East Glamorgan and Gower. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	86	82
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

As usual, most records were in South Wales, and it remains uncommon in the north. Much of the growth in numbers in recent years is a result of autumn birds that either do not remain or are not reported through the winter.

Yellow-legged Gulls recorded in Wales, based on largest count in each county per season, 2001-21



Numbers present in each county.

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1	2					1		2			
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	6	2					4	3	5	7	3	9
Cosmeston Lakes CP	1	1					2					1
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	1	1	1						2		1	1
Roath Park Lake	1	1	1	1							1	1
elsewhere		1					3					
GOWER									4			
CARMARTHEN		1						2		4		1
PEMBROKE	7	7	1					2	1	9	4	7
CEREDIGION								2	2			
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake								1		2	3	1
elsewhere				1								
CAERNARFON			1					6	4			
FLINT							1	2	2			

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FACH

Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**5511**	**6063**
% of BirdTrack lists	**28%**	**29%**

Coastal breeding counts in 2021: 10,634 AON is 4% lower (*cf*. 11,155). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count:

County/Site	*AON*	*Previous count (year)*
E.GLAMORGAN		
Flat Holm	1460	1830 (2020)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	511	463 (2019)
St Margaret's Island	25	6 (2019)
Castlemartin peninsula	15	18 (2019)
Skokholm	935	880 (2020)
Skomer	7412	7668 (2020)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	102	169 (2020)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB South Stack	7	6 (2019)
The Skerries	167	115 (2019)

Other breeding records: MEIRIONNYDD: three territories at Fairbourne, presumed roof-nesting; DENBIGH: nested at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: 2 AON at Rhyl Marine lake.

Nest productivity (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 0.89 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.12 in 2020) (Brown and Eagle 2022); 0.67 on Skomer, consistent with low level since 1981 but above 0.43 in 2020 (Newman *et al*. 2021); CAERNARFON: 0.54 on Bardsey (28% above the 10-year mean) based on a sample of 69 nests; ANGLESEY: 0.22 on The Skerries (*cf*. 0.21 in 2019).

Min. 162 AON on rooftops at 34 locations in eight vice-counties.

E.GLAMORGAN			GOWER	
Canton	2		Afan Way, Port Talbot	2
Cardiff Bay	1		Port Talbot Docks	22
City Hall, Cathays Park	1		The Quays, Briton Ferry	1
Western Avenue, Gabalfa	4		Port Talbot town centre	2
Cardiff North Retail Park, Gabalfa	21		The Melyn, Neath	1
Colchester Avenue, Penylan	5		Neath Cardboard Factory	2+
Roath	1		Giants Grave	1
Llanishen	7		Lidl, Gorseinon	1
Cyncoed	2		DENBIGH	
Unite student flats, Gabalfa	3		Tir Llwyd Ind. Park, Towyn	5
Penarth Road and Hadfield Road	3		BT Openreach, Mochdre	min. 28
Tyndall Industrial Estate	20+		FLINT	
			B&Q, Rhuddlan	min. 3
			Rhyl Ind. estate (Marsh Tracks)	2

Other rooftop breeding records, single nests unless stated: GWENT: up to four on factories near Brynmawr Ponds; E.GLAMORGAN: Hirwaun Ind. Estate, Barry, Penarth (2), Caerphilly, Llandough Ind. Estate, Llandough Hospital (2) and Wattstow (6+); MONTGOMERY: a few pairs at Potters, Welshpool Station; FLINT: Mold town centre.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index shows no strong trend. Like Herring Gull, the BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen since 2016, but to an even greater extent. Llys-y-fran Reservoir, PEMBROKE, remains the most important site by some margin, with up to 7000 roosting and a five-year average that is more than eight times higher than the sites with the next highest counts, on the FLINT side of the Dee estuary, Burry Inlet and Cleddau estuary.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥200 birds at least once during the year.

≥200 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
All rivers survey	45	312	85	156	79							
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	500	200	70	100	45	75	280	230		30	150	200
Flat Holm		1500	1600	1800	1600						5	2
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	100	50	94	59	86	45	450	185	250	100	154	92
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	220	35	36	27	64	33	35	27	23	60	5	11
PEMBROKE												
Llys-y-fran Reservoir			270								7000	4500
Cleddau estuary	74		96						216	98	50	30
Skokholm		222	889	796	931	606	608	552	22	26	51	25
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	650	1400								1290+	500+	1700
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey			60	111	161	220	308	70	34	80		

Other counts ≥200: GWENT: 200 at Ynysddu on 8 April; PEMBROKE: 320 on Gann est, on 13 Jan.; 419 at Druidston on 6 Feb.; 268 at Higgon's Well on 29 April; PEMBROKE/ CEREDIGION: 1000 on Teifi est. on 11 Nov.;

BRECON: 850 SW over Llangorse Lake on 19 Aug.; 600 on freshly-drilled arable fields at Llangorse village on 15 Oct.; 300 in Libanus area on 19 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: max. *c.*500 at Dolydd Hafren on 18 Dec.

2019 GWENT: 2-3 pairs on Denny Island; bred on roof of Royal Gwent Hospital and at Llanwern Steelworks, Liberty Steelworks Newport, Port of Newport, Trethomas, Brynmawr and on a railway bridge at Chepstow. Flock of 200 over Bedwas on 1 Aug.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* MOR-WENNOL GAWRAIDD

Rare visitor, breeding no closer than the northern Baltic Sea. BBRC: 12 previous records.

CARMARTHEN: colour-ringed 3CY (Yellow LJJ) at Penclacwydd on 24-29 June was the second county record. It had been ringed as a nestling at Hamina Kymenslaako, Finland, on 27 June 2019. This was the first resighting, although it was subsequently seen in Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire.

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis* MOR-WENNOL BIGDDU

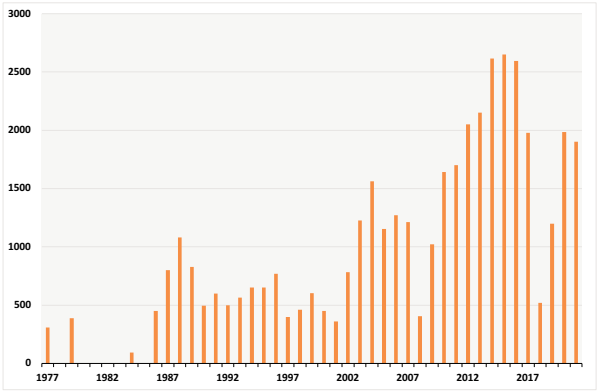
Passage migrant to most coastal areas. One breeding site (max. 2650 AON in 2015). Scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	619	909
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	4%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: 1901 AON at Cemlyn (*cf.* 1984 in 2020) fledged an estimated 1440-1600 young.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales remained fairly stable to 2019, and there is no strong trend in the BirdTrack reporting rate since 2013.

Sandwich Tern nests at Cemlyn, Anglesey, 1977-2021



Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥50 birds at least once during the year.

Monthly max.	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*
CARMARTHEN									
Pembrey Harbour		7	2	2	51	361	141	10	
Cefn Sidan	1	3			10	20	100		
CEREDIGION									
Borth/Ynyslas	7	80			200	178	360		
MEIRIONNYDD									
Broadwater/Tonfanau		10		3	150	181	195		
CAERNARFON									
Foryd/Dinas Dinlle	40+	*c.*100	*c.*800	7	30		6		
Traeth Lafan	8	*c.*100	500+	*c.*55	630	*c.*10	6		
Rhos Point		75	*c.*70	1	70	*c.*380	250	7	2
DENBIGH									
Llanddulas	1	20+					75		
FLINT									
Clwyd estuary	1	3		14	*c.*270	661	4		
Gronant		8	14	6	120	50+	*c.*70		

Other counts ≥50: GOWER: 90 at Port Eynon on 1 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 400+ at Llandanwg/Artro est. on 25-26 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 51 at Pwllheli on 31 July and *c.*50 here on 3 Aug.; 74 at Porth Ysgaden on 31 Aug.; ANGLESEY: *c.*75 at Penmon Pool on 4 April; 60 at Rhosneigr on 2 May; 84 at Traeth Melynog in May; 130 at Pt Lynas on 8 Aug. and 63 here on 6 Oct.; DENBIGH: 52 off Glan Conwy on 8 May.

Inland counties: BRECON: singles at Llangorse Lake on 28 March and 14 April, and three here on 9 May.

Earliest and latest dates in each coastal county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
E.GLAMORGAN	28 March	Porthcawl		4 Oct.	Porthcawl
GOWER	8 April	Port Eynon		9 Oct.	Port Eynon
CARMARTHEN	18 March	Telpyn Point		3 Oct.	Burry Port Harbour & Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	14 March	Gann estuary		6 Oct.	Gann estuary
CEREDIGION	**12 March**	**RSPB Ynys-hir**		13 Oct.	Ynyslas
MEIRIONNYDD	2 April	Fairbourne		26 Sept.	Llandanwg/Artro estuary
CAERNARFON	25 March	Dinas Dinlle		**21 Nov.**	**Rhos Point**
ANGLESEY	20 March	Cemlyn		8 Nov.	Holyhead
DENBIGH	30 March	Old Colwyn & Pensarn		18 Oct.	Rhos-on-sea
FLINT	30 March	Clwyd estuary		28 Sept.	Rhyl

The first of the year in CARMARTHEN and FLINT equalled the earliest this century in each county, in 2017 and 2006 respectively. The last in CAERNARFON was the latest county record this century, four days later than one at the same site in 2020.

Resighting project highlights value of Liverpool Bay

A co-ordinated effort to record colour-ringed Sandwich Terns at roosts in North Wales resulted in 409 resightings of 207 individuals, the highest number since the project started in 2017. Resightings came from seven sites across the region, between Gronant, FLINT, in the east and Cemlyn, ANGLESEY, in the west. The principal watchpoints were Cemlyn and Rhos Point, CAERNARFON (each 31% of resightings) and the Clwyd estuary, FLINT (30%).

Origins of Sandwich Terns resighted in North Wales in 2021.

Country of ringing (total individuals)	*Location*	*Individuals*
WALES (50)	Cemlyn, ANGLESEY	20
	Ynyslas, CEREDIGION	30
ENGLAND (58)	Coquet Island, Northumberland	6
	Hodbarrow, Cumbria	39
	Inner Farne, Northumberland	3
SCOTLAND (13)	Blackness Castle, Stirling	1
	Hunterston, Clyde	1
	Isle of May, Fife	1
	Ythan estuary, Aberdeenshire	10
NORTHERN IRELAND (21)	Larne Lough, Co.Antrim	10
	Belfast Lough, Antrim	1
	Strangford Lough, Co.Down	10
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (50)	Lady's Island Lake, Co.Wexford	50
NETHERLANDS (13)	Lancasterdijk, Texel	1
	Scheelhoek eilanden, Zuid Holland	7
	Slijkplaat, Zuid Holland	3
	Utopia, Texel	2
DENMARK (2)	Agger Tange, Nordjylland	1
	Sprogø, Sjælland	1

Most birds had been ringed as chicks, 45 (22%) in summer 2021, at 17 colonies around the Irish Sea and North Sea coasts, while those from Ynyslas, CEREDIGION, and Hunterston, Scotland, had been ringed as adults. Of those that have been traced, the oldest colour-ring resighting was White N5H, ringed at Scheelhoek eilanden, Haringvliet, Netherlands in 2013, and seen at Rhos Pt on 1 September 2021 (2995 days), although five other 2013-ringed birds were also recorded. In addition, a metal (not colour) ringed bird crash-landed at Kinmel Bay on 12 Aug. that originated at Lady's Island Lake, Ireland, in 2003 and was over 18 years old when released after a short recovery.

ELEGANT TERN *Thalasseus elegans* MOR-WENNOL GAIN

Extremely rare visitor, principally from the Gulf of California, but a tiny population breeds in southwest Europe. BBRC: one previous record.

ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 4-30 July, persistently displaying to and offering fish to Sandwich Terns. It was subsequently seen with Sandwich Terns in Cumbria, Lancashire & North Merseyside.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* MOR-WENNOL FACH

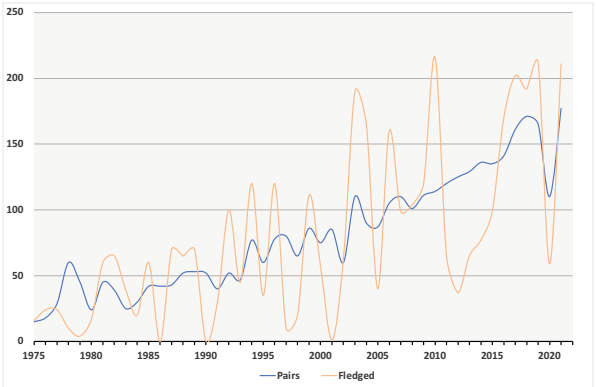
Breeds in Flintshire – RBBP: 59 young fledged from 110 nests at two sites in 2020. Elsewhere, uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant to other coasts. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**53**	**65**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: FLINT: 163 AON at Gronant (*cf*. 89 nests in 2020) fledged min. 201 young (1.23/nest), the fourth highest total of young since monitoring began in 1975 (Bain *et al*. 2021); 14 AON at RSPB Pt of Ayr (*cf*. 21 in 2020) fledged 10 young (0.71/nest).

Non-breeding: numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey peaked in 2019, following a run of poor years. There is no strong trend in the BirdTrack reporting rate.

Little Tern pairs and fledged young (Gronant 1975-2021 and RSPB Point of Ayr 2019-21).



Earliest and latest dates in each county where occurred

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	24 April	Newport Wetlands		no autumn records	
GOWER	23 April	Kenfig Rivermouth		no autumn records	
CEREDIGION	21 April	Ynyslas		22 Aug.	Ynyslas
MEIRIONNYDD	25 April	Aberdysynni		no autumn records	
CAERNARFON	no spring records			24 Aug.	Bardsey
FLINT	**19 April**	**Gronant**		**16 Sept.**	**Gronant**

All other records (max. site counts only in Flintshire), singles unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 7 May; CEREDIGION: seven at Ynyslas on 21 April, one here on 24th, five on 28th, one on 4 May, two on 11th and one on 22 Aug.; FLINT: 110 at Pt of Ayr on 9 May; largest post-breeding season counts were *c*.500 at Gronant on 8 July and 100+ at Pt of Ayr on 16 July.

Colour-ring resightings: 313 individuals were recorded at Gronant, of which 253 (81%) had been ringed at the breeding site in a previous year. Of the others, 37 were from colonies in the Republic of Ireland, 11 from the Isle of Man, 11 from Cumbria and one from Cleveland. One other had been ringed on passage in Portugal in Sept. 2018 (and seen at Gronant in 2020). Ringers from the Royal Netherlands Institute of Sea Research (NIOZ) recorded six Gronant-ringed Little Terns (including one that hatched here in 2003) in the Banc d'Arguin National Park, Mauritania, in Nov. 2021. Summarised from Smith (2022).

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* MOR-WENNOL WRIDOG

Occasional breeder on Anglesey – RBBP: two pairs fledged four young in 2019. Uncommon passage visitor to other coasts. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**56**	**179**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding season: ANGLESEY: recorded at Cemlyn from 19 May and more regularly from 12 June to 18 July. Four on 14 June was the highest count. Birds were sometimes seen in pairs and one present throughout July was seen displaying and mating with a Common Tern but there was no further

evidence of breeding. None bred elsewhere.

All other records, singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: two during a pelagic trip to the Celtic Deep on 19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: adult south past Bardsey on 18 Aug.; ANGLESEY: near Rhosneigr on 5 and 15 June, and two nearby on 1 July; FLINT: three reported at Gronant on 11 July.

Common Tern (Bob Garrett)

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* MOR-WENNOL GYFFREDIN

Four breeding colonies. Passage migrant to other coasts and sometimes inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**229**	**304**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**1%**

Breeding numbers and productivity (young/AON): ANGLESEY: *c*.265 pairs at Cemlyn fledged max. 171-190 young (0.72); 324 AON on The Skerries (*cf.* 301 AON in 2019 and none in 2020) and 1372 young (combined with Common Tern); 174 AON at a site in western Anglesey (*cf*. 174 in 2019) but only 16 fledged (0.09); FLINT: 382 AON at Shotton Steelworks fledged 288 chicks (0.75) (*cf*. 394 AON and 0.34 in 2020).

Non-breeding counts ≥10 away from colonies: CARMARTHEN: 10 at Pembrey Harbour on 21 Aug., 14 here on 25th, 43 on 26th and 56 on 18 Sept.; 14 at Burry Port Harbour on 29 Aug.; 17 at Machynys on 4 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 10 at Ynyslas on 20 July; CAERNARFON: 10 at Porth Neigwl on 9 Aug.; 20 at Bangor on 16 May; ANGLESEY: 145 at Pt Lynas on 22 Aug.; FLINT: away from Shotton, 45 at Connah's Quay NR on 10 June and 50 here on 8 July.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	no spring records		13 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	16 April	Rumney Great Wharf	1 Oct.	St Mary's Well Bay
GOWER	**5 April**	**Loughor Bridge**	1 Oct.	Port Eynon
CARMARTHEN	no spring records		22 Sept.	Telpyn Point
PEMBROKE	no spring records		5 Oct.	Strumble Head & Bosherston Lakes
CEREDIGION	28 April	Ynyslas	23 Sept.	Mwnt
BRECON	3 June	Llangorse Lake	10 Aug.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	no spring records		19 Aug.	Dolydd Hafren & Coed-y-dinas
MEIRIONNYDD	no spring records		18 Aug.	Mochras
CAERNARFON	24 April	Dinas Dinlle	**24 Oct.**	**Porthmadog**
ANGLESEY	23 April	Cemlyn	**24 Oct.**	**Traeth Lligwy**
DENBIGH	13 April	Horton's Nose	7 Sept.	Rhos-on-sea
FLINT	11 April	Connah's Quay NR	8 Sept.	Connah's Quay NR

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* MOR-WENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Three colonies, all on Anglesey. Passage migrant to other coasts, but generally scarcer than Common Tern. Scarce inland. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	154	254
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding numbers and productivity (fledged young/AON): ANGLESEY: 2976 AON on The Skerries (*cf*. 2814 AON in 2019 and none in 2020) and 1.11-1.31 (1372 young combined with Common Tern); 319 AON at a site in western Anglesey (*cf*. 640 in 2020) but only 14 young fledged (0.04/pair); from *c*.114 pairs at Cemlyn, estimated 81 fledged (0.71).

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*	*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	25 April	Newport Wetlands	no autumn records	
E.GLAMORGAN	26 April	Sker Point	5 Sept.	Cardiff Bay barrage
GOWER	no spring records		1 Oct.	Port Eynon
CARMARTHEN	9 May	Cefn Sidan	18 Sept.	Pembrey Harbour
PEMBROKE	3 May	Tenby	6 Oct.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	21 April	Ynyslas	5 Oct.	Mwnt
BRECON	9 May	Llangorse Lake	6 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
CAERNARFON	**14 April**	**Fort Belan**	17 Aug.	Rhos Point
ANGLESEY	22 April	RSPB South Stack	**25 Oct.**	**Cemlyn**
FLINT	24 April	Connah's Quay NR	10 Aug.	Clwyd estuary

Non-breeding counts ≥10: GWENT: 10 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 25 April; PEMBROKE: 22 off Tenby on 3 May; 10 passed Strumble Head on 6 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 16 at Ynyslas on 21 April; 10 passed Mwnt on 29 Sept. and 20 here on 5 Oct.; CAERNARFON: *c*.40 off Dinas Dinlle on 24 April; *c*.10 in Foryd Bay on 3 May; 15 at Porth Neigwl on 9 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 105 passed Pt Lynas on 16 Aug.

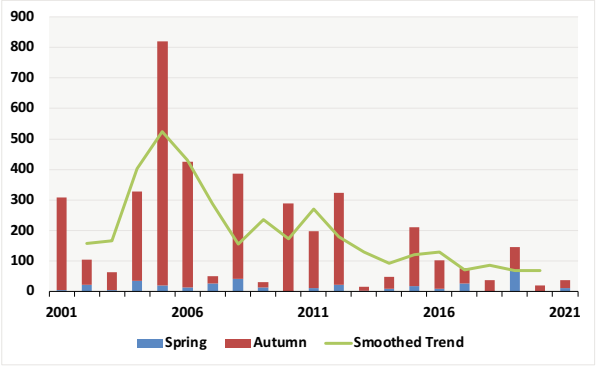
BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* CORSWENNOL DDU

Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties but also on inland waters; spring records are usually fewer in number but there are substantial influxes in some years. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	14	20
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A slight improvement on numbers in 2020, but even disregarding the influx in autumn 2005, the species has been declining as a visitor to Wales through the last 20 years.

Black Terns recorded in Wales, 2001-21



As last year, only two spring records, but the flock of 10 in Eastern Glamorgan was notable for the recording area. Single birds unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: flock of 10 up-channel at Lavernock Pt on 9 May; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 21-23 May.

Autumn passage, single birds unless stated: GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 24 Aug.; GOWER: Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 5 Sept. and 3 Oct.; Port Eynon on 1 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 1CY at Pembrey Harbour on 26 Aug.; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 10 Sept.; BRECON: 15 at Llangorse Lake on 9 Sept. of which two remained on 10-12 Sept., and one on 3 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 17 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 10 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 29 Aug.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 18 Sept.

2019 GWENT: three off Collister Pill on 8 May; three at Llandegfedd Res. on 28 Aug. and one here on 11-13 Sept.

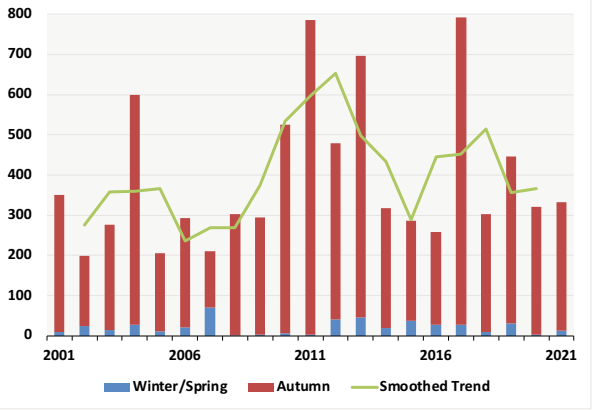
GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* SGIWEN FAWR

Regular on autumn passage along the west coast. Numbers vary annually, the highest counts dependent on the strength and frequency of onshore gales. Small numbers in spring, and occasionally in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	39	49
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen in Wales, but counts have shown no strong trend this century. However, for a longer perspective, there were fewer sightings at Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire, this year than on a single day in Oct. 1983. A modest outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza was noted in some Scottish colonies in late summer 2021 but any impact was not apparent in the numbers off the Welsh coast in autumn. All single birds unless stated.

Great Skuas recorded in Wales, 2001-21



Spring passage: GWENT: Goldcliff Pt on 3 May; E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 23 May; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 12 March; Aberystwyth and New Quay on 4 May; Cardigan Island on 4 June; ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack on 27 April and 4 May; two at Cemlyn on 27 April, singles on 29 April, 5 and 18 May.

Max. daily totals in autumn at selected locations:

Monthly max.	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*
Strumble Head, PEMBROKE		12	19	105	20
Skokholm, PEMBROKE		4	34	9	
Mwnt, CEREDIGION		1	22	21	
Bardsey, CAERNARFON	1	3	16	13	
Point Lynas, ANGLESEY		6		4	1

Other autumn records: CARMARTHEN: Pembrey Harbour on 12 Aug.; Cefn Sidan on 22 Aug.; PEMBROKE: pelagic trips to the Celtic Deep recorded singles on 3 and 19 Aug. and two on 29th; CEREDIGION: Gwbert on 29 Sept., 1 and 22 Oct.; Ynyslas on 15 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Porth Ysgaden on 11 Aug., 23 and 24 Sept.; three off Aberdaron/Braich-y-pwll on 3 Oct. and one here on 1 Nov.; ANGLESEY: two on 27 Aug. and one on 13 Sept.; three between Cemlyn and Carmel Head on 1 Oct.

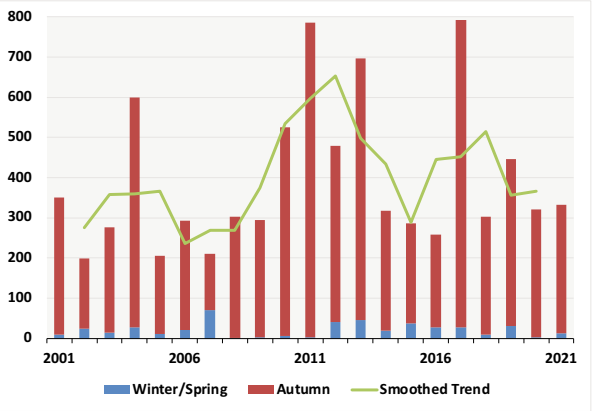
POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* SGIWEN FRECH

Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	9	12
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

At 51 individuals, it was not the year with the lowest counts, but the trend is dipping down to similar levels at the end of the 2010s. All single birds unless stated.

Pomarine Skuas recorded in Wales, 2001-21



Spring passage: GWENT: Goldcliff Pt on 9 May; E.GLAMORGAN: Porthcawl on 3 and 9 May, and a flock of seven up-channel at Lavernock Pt on the latter date; CAERNARFON: five off Criccieth on 10 May; Porth Ysgaden on 9 June; ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack on 4-5 May and two here on 22nd.

Autumn passage: PEMBROKE: 20 passed Strumble Head: one each on 6 and 7 Aug., three on 27 Sept. and two on 29th, three on 1 Oct. and singles on 5th and 6th, seven on 1 Nov. and one on 26th; CAERNARFON: singles on Bardsey on 20 Aug. and three dates in Sept., three here on 17 Sept., one on 1 and 9 Oct. and two on 5th; ANGLESEY: Pt Lynas on 21 Nov.

2019 GWENT: two off Goldcliff Pt on 17 May.

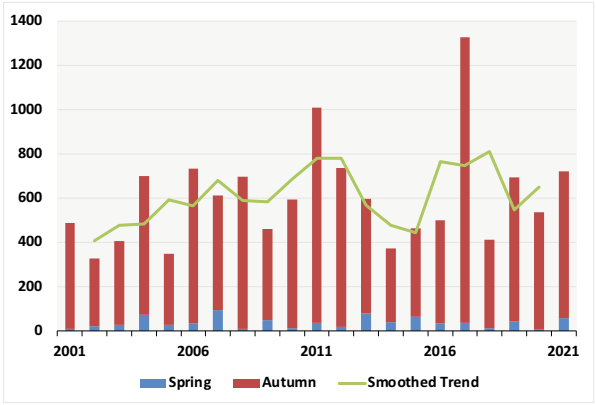
ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage bird off coastal counties; uncommon in spring, more numerous in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	47	58
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The BirdTrack reporting rate almost halved between 2013-15 and 2019-21, but as for Great Skua, there is no strong trend in numbers reported. The peak counts were in October, somewhat later than usual.

Arctic Skuas recorded in Wales, 2001-21



Number recorded in each county.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
GWENT				1							
E.GLAMORGAN											
Lavernock Point				3	8					1	
elsewhere				3	3						
GOWER											
Port Eynon Point	2									2	
Tutt Head					1					5	
S. of Loughor Bridge				1							
CARMARTHEN							1	1	5		
PEMBROKE											
Strumble Head					1			29	68	191	2
elsewhere								2	2	1	
CEREDIGION											
Mwnt								138 on nine dates			
Ynyslas/Borth				4					4		
elsewhere				6				3+	27	6	
MEIRIONNYDD									5		
CAERNARFON											
Bardsey								11+	48+	22+	
elsewhere			1	2	11			8	12	5	
ANGLESEY											
Point Lynas								5	16	10	1
Cemlyn							1	3	10		
elsewhere					13					3	
DENBIGH								1			
FLINT									1		

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

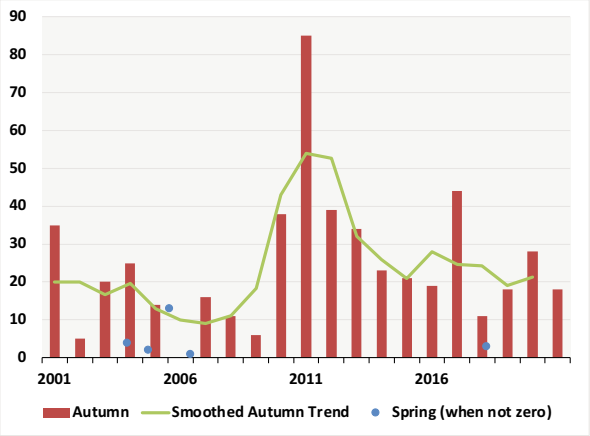
Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly along the western seaboard during westerly gales. Unusual in spring. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3	16
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Numbers reported were higher during 2010-19 than the previous decade, but have been falling slowly.

All single birds unless stated: CARMARTHEN: adult at Machynys on 11-

Long-tailed Skuas recorded in Wales, 2001-21

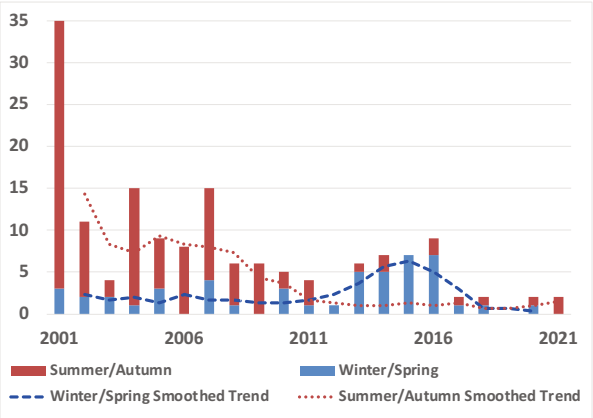


16 May was the third county record; PEMBROKE: two 1CYs passed Strumble Head on each of 27 Sept., 5 and 6 Oct.; CEREDIGION: adult on a field at Llanrhystud on 23 May; two at Mwnt on 29 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: Aberdyfi on 24 May; CAERNARFON: 1CY off Bardsey on 29-30 Sept. and 2 Oct., and four on 3rd; 1CY off Aberdaron on 3 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 1CYs off Pt Lynas on 1 and 21 Oct., and 21 Nov.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* CARFIL BACH

Scarce but declining winter visitor in irregular numbers off the western seaboard. Most sightings are in late autumn and early winter, often following westerly gales. Wales Red listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

Little Auks (incl. dead and moribund) recorded in Wales, 2001-21



It has become very difficult to see a Little Auk (and even more so, a living one) in Wales in recent years. And the days of catching one in a late summer/early autumn gale seem a distant memory, with the few birds occurring now more abundant in winter. These data have been used to justify Red-listing on Birds of Conservation Concern Wales for the first time.

Single birds: CAERNARFON: Pen y Cil on 18 Nov.; ANGLESEY: found on a building site at Trearddur Bay on 18 Nov. and released at Porth Dafarch.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* GWYLOG

Abundant breeding species in southwestern and northwestern counties. Moves away to moult after breeding and returns to vicinity of colonies as early as December. The count unit is adults on land (AOL). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	375	706
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: *c.*0.61 on Skomer (*cf.* 0.76 in 2020) was the lowest recorded since 2011 - many nest sites failed at the egg stage, which may have resulted from two storms early in the incubation period (Newman *et al.* 2021); CAERNARFON: 0.54 on Bardsey (sample plot of 50 AOLs), 51.3% higher than 10-year mean.

County/Site	AOL	Previous count (year)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	140	72 (2019)
St Margaret's Island	1685	1759 (2019)
Castlemartin Peninsula	18,611	18,358 (2019)
Skokholm	5065	5101 (2020)
Skomer	27,057	28,798 (2019)
Ramsey	5395	4497 (2019)
CAERNARFON		
Carreg y Llam	13,914	11,000 (2019)
Bardsey	1432	1232 (2020)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr & Bach	103	81 (2019)
Great Orme	2403	1843 (2019)
Little Orme	1014	348 (2019)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB N. & S. Stack Cliffs	7592	6292 (2019)
Puffin Island	3820	3606 (2019)

Breeding counts: 88,231 AOL, the long-term trend is still one of increase (*cf*. 82,987 in the previous count, +6.3%). The count at Carreg y Llam, CAERNARFON, for example was the highest since 2009. Shaded figures show declines since the previous count.

Non-breeding counts ≥5: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Porthcawl on 31 Oct.; GOWER: seven at Port Eynon on 21 May and six here on 7 July; CARMARTHEN: 11 off Telpyn Pt on 19 March; seven off Cefn Sidan on 9 May, six here on 25 May and 15 on 6 June; PEMBROKE: 500 in the Celtic Deep on 3 Aug.; 1000 passed Strumble Head on 6 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 60 off Gwbert on 22 Jan.; 50 at Mwnt on 23 and 29 Sept., and 1 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: eight at Penllyn on 20 April; CAERNARFON: 100+ at Rhos Pt on 5 May; ANGLESEY: 170 at Moelfre on 4 Dec. and 90 here on 5th; DENBIGH: 10 off Llanddulas on 27 March.

Max. monthly counts from selected locations.

Monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Skokholm, PEMBROKE		1731	3195	3725	4000	3500	2500	45	25	135	539	5
Bardsey, CAERNARFON			100	223	1173	1432	673	1	51	153		
Great Orme, CAERNARFON			250+	50+	400+	500+	9				60+	*c*.75
Little Orme, CAERNARFON	300	*c*.400	*c*.450		*c*.270	200+	40			1	1	*c*.120

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* LLURS

Fairly common breeder on cliffs and islands of northwest and southwest Wales. Some disperse south in winter but others remain in Welsh waters. The count unit is adults on land (AOL). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**398**	**551**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**2%**

Breeding counts: 19,820 AOL (*cf*. 18,644 in the previous count, +6.3%).

Shaded figures show declines since the previous count, more pronounced in North than West Wales:

County/Site	AOL	Previous count (year)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	188	90 (2019)
St Margaret's Island	244	235 (2019)
Castlemartin peninsula	1682	1500 (2019)
Skokholm	3356	3517 (2020)
Skomer	8165	7529 (2018)
Ramsey	2160	1599 (2019)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	1220	1400 (2020)
Carreg y Llam	438	519 (2019)
Ynysoedd Gwylan	12	44 (2018)
Great Orme	247	255 (2019)
Little Orme	49	24 (2019)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB South Stack	1378	1498 (2020)
Puffin Island	681	434 (2019)

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: *c*.0.47 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.56 in 2020) (Brown and Eagle 2022); *c*.0.50 on Skomer for active and regularly occupied sites, slightly higher than those in 2020 (*cf*. 0.46) and the historical (1993-2020) average of 0.48 (Newman *et al*. 2021); CAERNARFON: min. 195 young and eggs on Bardsey, a 75.7% increase on 2020 but 26.9% lower than the 10-year mean.

Non-breeding, singles unless stated: GWENT: two off Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 May; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Porthcawl and Sker Pt on 10 May; Porthcawl and St Mary's Well Bay on 21 May; 11 off Cardiff Bay barrage on 30 Sept. was unusual so far east; six at St Mary's Well Bay on 1 Oct.; two at Porthcawl on 4 and 28 Oct. and 15 here on 31st; five at Sker Pt on 15 Oct.; Lavernock Pt on 31 Oct.; GOWER: Pwll Du Head on 3 Jan.; 5+ at Rhossili on 14 April; Bracelet Bay on 25 Oct.; Knab Rock on 16 Nov.; Aberavon on 28 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan on 6 April, two here on 9 May, three on 6 June and one on 9 Oct.; three off Telpyn Pt on 26 Sept., 12 here on 10 Nov. and two on 13th; PEMBROKE: 1000 passed Strumble

Head on 6 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 30 at Mwnt on 20 Sept., 40 here on 22nd, 100 on 23rd, 150 on 29th and 200 on 1 Oct.; 100+ at Ynyslas on 13 Oct. and 20+ here on 15-16th; MEIRIONNYDD: two at Llangelynin on 26 April; 20 off Llandanwg on 25 Sept. and five here on 10 Nov.; 14 off Aberdysynni on 16 Oct.; three off Tywyn on 24 Nov.; CAERNARFON: *c.*30 between Morfa Aber and Llanfairfechan on 22 March; 11 off Penrhyn Bay on 18 Feb.; DENBIGH: two at Horton's Nose on 25 Feb.; *c.*10 at Llanddulas on 27 March; FLINT: Gronant on 6 Sept.; four off Rhyl on 6 Oct.

Max. monthly counts from selected locations.

Monthly maxima	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Skokholm, PEMBROKE		427	1929	1816	1800	1600	800	14	16	164	76	427
Bardsey, CAERNARFON			150	441	478	1220	491	2	2869	3443		
Great Orme, CAERNARFON			*c.*200	25+	100+	100+			3		5	
Little Orme, CAERNARFON	5+	*c.*35	*c.*55		*c.*45	50+						2

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle* GWYLOG DDU

Localised and uncommon breeding species, primarily on Anglesey. Small numbers elsewhere outside the breeding season. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**192**	**275**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**1%**

6-9 nests in two counties, and probable breeding in a third, is higher than usually reported. The combined number of individuals around potential breeding areas was a min. 65, higher than the estimated 19 breeding pairs in the provisional results of the 2015-19 Seabird Census (in Pritchard *et al*. 2021). This is also the one auk species for which the BirdTrack reporting rate has increased rather than fallen, reflecting the far lower likelihood of encountering a Black Guillemot on a seawatch but greater chance in a sheltered bay during more casual birding.

Breeding season, individuals unless stated: PEMBROKE: Fishguard Harbour (where presumed to have bred) from 27 Feb. until end of year, max. four on 3 and 7 March; CAERNARFON: Great Orme from 28 Feb. to 14 Nov., max. 11 on 21 March, 24 on 24 June and 18 on 1 Aug., three nests with chicks audible in June and adults entering three other possible nest sites; two off the Little Orme on 4 July; Porth Ysgaden on 8 July, two here on 10th and one on 17th; ANGLESEY: at least three nests at Holyhead, 11 birds here on 25 March and 14 on 7 April; eight at Penmon on 2 April, 17 off Fedw Fawr on 21 April and 19 off Traeth Lleiniog on 22 April, some of which are presumed to have bred on the peninsula, but none on Puffin Island on 15 June; two off The Range on 27 April and singles here on 4 and 22 May.

All records away from above sites, singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN: Telpyn Pt on 10 Nov., the second county record (previous in Oct. 1973); PEMBROKE: Giltar Pt on 9 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 23 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bangor on 12 and 23 Jan.; Aberdesach on 31 March; three off Llanfairfechan on 12 April and one on 13th; Criccieth on 23 April; Bangor on 16 May; Menai Strait on 17 Aug.; Bardsey on 31 Aug., another or same here on 3 Sept., two south on 16 Sept., and one off the North End on 29th; Rhos Pt on 9 Oct.; five in Tremadog Bay on 10 Nov. and eight here on 13 Dec.; Bangor Pier on 2 Dec.; Llanfairfechan on 26 Dec.; ANGLESEY: five off Traeth Coch on 28 Feb.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* PAL

Locally abundant on offshore islands and a few western headlands. Count unit is Apparently Occupied Burrows (AOB) or Adults on Land (AOL). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**40**	**196**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding counts: 47,548 (mixed count units), *cf.* 44,798 in the previous counts (+6.1%).

Shaded figures show declines since the previous count.

County/Site (count unit)	Count	Previous count (year)
PEMBROKE		
St Margaret's Island (ind)	2	1 (2019)
Stackpole Head (ind)	14	1 (2019)
Skokholm (ind)	11,245	8,534 (2020)
Skomer (ind)	34,813	34,796 (2020)
North Bishop (ind)	55	40 (2018)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey (pairs)	202	164 (2020)
Ynysoed Gwylan (AOB)	349	619 (2019)
ANGLESEY		
RSPB South Stack (AOB)	6	12 (2020)
Puffin Island (ind)	13	29 (2019)
The Skerries south (AOB)	849	349 (2019)

Nesting productivity (chicks fledged per active burrow): PEMBROKE: *c*.0.8 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.78 in 2020) (Brown and Eagle 2022); *c*.0.70 on Skomer, the same as in 2020 (Newman *et al*. 2021).

Non-breeding, single birds unless stated: CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 15 April; Mwnt on 1 May; New Quay on 30 May; Mwnt and Cardigan Island on 1 July; CAERNARFON: off Porth Ysgaden, max. 30 on 8 July and 60 on 17th; three off Uwchmynydd on 12 June; Aberdesach on 22 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 35+ at Penmon Pt on 31 March; two at Pt Lynas on 5 July; 37 passed Cemlyn on 17 July and 25 here on 18th; 29 below RSPB South Stack on 20 July; east of Amlwch on 7 Nov.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON.

Monthly totals	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Bardsey	16	74	41	247	404	4	7

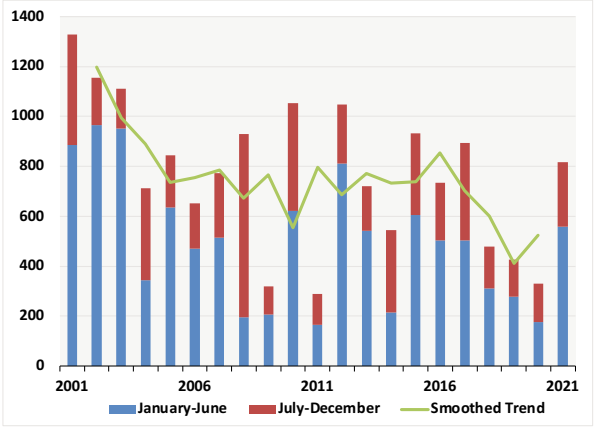
RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Localised coastal winter visitor and passage migrant, sometimes in large concentrations. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	281	340
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fell by 85% in the 25 years to 2019 and bird reports also suggest a recent decline, but numbers in 2021 were above the recent average.

Red-throated Diver recorded in Wales, based on peak site counts ≥20 birds each season, 2001-21



Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥20 birds at least once during the year.

≥20 birds	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
PEMBROKE												
Strumble Head			3						6	35	35	30
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas				61					6	13	12	11
MEIRIONNYDD												
Artro estuary					1					3	9	21
CAERNARFON												
Caernarfon Bay			14	130	3						30	6
Traeth Lafan	1		c.15	9	1				1	3	25	65+
ANGLESEY												
Point Lynas									8	14	37	

Max. counts elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: five off Sker Pt on 8 Jan. and 17 here on 25 Nov.; GOWER: eight at Worm's Head on 11 April; 12 off Aberavon on 28 Nov.;

CARMARTHEN: 71 off Telpyn Pt on 21 March; PEMBROKE: 108 in Carmarthen Bay from Wiseman's Bridge-Amroth on 10 Jan.; 19 at St Brides Bay in March and 15 here in Dec.; 12 on Gann est./Dale Roads in Dec.; CEREDIGION: 25 at Clarach in Jan.; 16 at New Quay on 3 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 28 off Penllyn on 20 April; CAERNARFON: *c.*10 in Llandudno Bay in March; 15 off Porth Neigwl on 22 April; 10 off Criccieth on 3 May; 15 off Porth Oer on 16 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 13 passed RSPB South Stack on 27 April; 21 at Cemlyn on 6 Oct.; 21 at Moelfre on 28 Nov.; 90 in Red Wharf Bay on 18 Dec.; DENBIGH: max. *c.*50 off Llanddulas on 30 March and 61 here on 12 Dec.; 60 off Pensarn on 31 Oct.

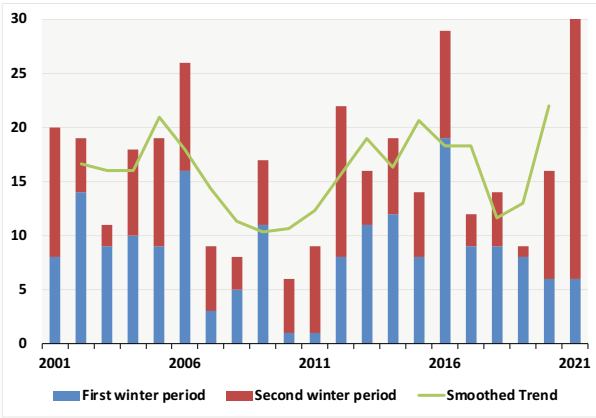
BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	15	44
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The highest total this century, driven partly by high numbers off Strumble Head in the autumn.

Black-throated Divers recorded in Wales, based on max. in each county in each season 2001-21



All records, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 6-10 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan on 28 Feb., the first county record since 2016; PEMBROKE: in St Brides Bay at Nolton Haven on 1 Jan., off Nine Wells on 27 April, Broad Haven on 26 Oct., Druidston on 26 Dec. and Goultrop Roads on 31st; Milford Haven on 25 Feb.; Coppet Hall on 13 Nov.; a notable movement (or circulating birds) off Strumble Head in autumn/winter following northerly winds: two on 21 Oct., three on 1 Nov., nine on 26th, seven on 27th and nine on 27th, eight on 1 Dec., three on 5th, four on 9th and five on 10th; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 20 April; New Quay on 7 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Llandanwg on 25 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Aberdaron Bay on 13 May; passed Bardsey on 29 Sept., 1, 5 and 21 Oct.; Rhos Pt on 20 Nov. (also seen in DENBIGH); Llanfairfechan on 19-26 Dec.; Pontllyfni on 20 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Beddmanarch Bay on 25 Sept.; Cemlyn on 1 Oct.; Benllech on 11 Oct.; Moelfre on 23 Oct.; Red Wharf Bay on 18 Dec.

PACIFIC DIVER *Gavia pacifica* TROCHYDD MOR TAWEL

Extremely rare visitor from North America and northeast Siberia. BBRC: one previous record.

GOWER: 1CY at Eglwys Nunydd Res. from 11 Dec. until 25 Feb. 2022.

Pacific Diver (George Reed)

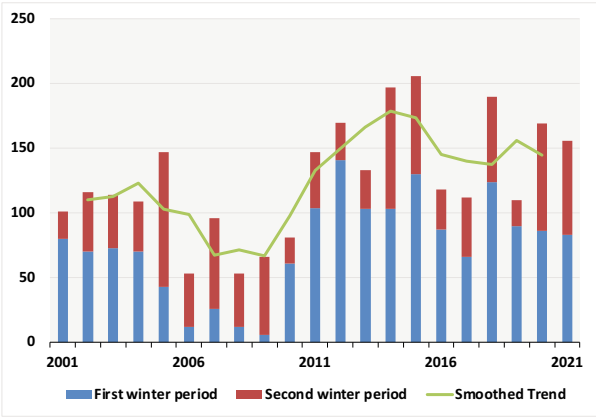
GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* TROCHYDD MAWR

Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded offshore in small numbers annually. Scarce inland. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	436	268
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

The BirdTrack reporting rate varies between winters, and was lower in 2021 probably as a result of the lockdown during the first winter period, although the cumulative site counts were in line with the last decade.

Great Northern Divers recorded in Wales, based on seasonal max. in each county 2001-21



Number of birds present in each county.

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	1			1	12						5	
GOWER	1-2	4				1-2	8					
CARMARTHEN		4	1	2							1	3
PEMBROKE												
Wiseman's Bridge-Amroth	1		1									4
Gann est./Dale Roads	1	2	4	4								3
St Brides Bay	1		2	1							1	6
Strumble Head									1	18	28	8
Fishguard Harbour	5	4	4									1
elsewhere	2	1	2		1				1			1
CEREDIGION				1	2				P	2	2	
MEIRIONNYDD	1	1		2							1	1
CAERNARFON												
Caernarfon Bay	11	11	29	35	2						25	11
Traeth Lafan	2				1					1	2	2
other sites	1	2	2	1	1		1		1	6	3	8
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch Bay		2			1				2		1	
other sites	1		2	3	9			1		1	1	2
DENBIGH			P								1	1

2019 GWENT: one at Llandegfedd Res. on 15 Dec.

WHITE-BILLED DIVER *Gavia adamsii* TROCHYDD PIGWYN

Very rare visitor from northern Canada and northeast Russia. BBRC: three previous records.

PEMBROKE: breeding-plumage adult passed Strumble Head on 1 Nov., the third record for the site.

WILSON'S PETREL *Oceanites oceanicus* PEDTRYN DRYCIN WILSON

Rare visitor, breeding in the southern hemisphere. BBRC: 13 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one from a pelagic trip in the Celtic Deep on 29 Aug. All Welsh records have been from Strumble Head or in the Celtic Deep.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* PEDRYN DRYCIN

Breeds on Bardsey and on six Pembrokeshire islands (c.2500 pairs). The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	25	29
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: 87 transect responses on Skokholm (*cf*. 89 responses in 2019); estimated productivity was 0.8 fledged chicks/breeding pair (*cf*. 0.45 in 2020) (Brown and Eagle 2022); at least seven AOS on Ramsey (*cf*. seven in 2018); CAERNARFON: adults called at presumed nest sites on Bardsey and a pair occupied a nestbox in which a juvenile was present on 10 Aug.

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate has fallen sharply since 2013, and now barely registers. There was an unusual number of records from southeast Wales in late May. Singles unless stated: GWENT: five off Goldcliff Pt on 21 May, three here on 22 and 28 May and one on 6 July; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 21 May; five at Lavernock Pt on 21 May and eight here on 23rd; Irongate Pt on 6 and 8 Aug. and Lavernock Pt on 8th; GOWER: four from Tutt Head on 22 May and 4+ here on 25th; PEMBROKE: 8+ from a boat in the Celtic Deep on 3 Aug., 20 on 19th, 30+ on 29th and 20+ on 30th; CEREDIGION: four ringed at Mwnt on 13 June and another two on 9 July; two from Aberystwyth on 7 July; CAERNARFON: 31 ringed at Bardsey on 3 July, three on 31st, one on 2 Aug., nine on 4th and singles on 24 Aug. and 3 Sept.; passed Bardsey on 16 Aug. and 1 Oct.; ANGLESEY: two off RSPB South Stack on 5 May; 12 caught at Pt Lynas on 10-11 July, including birds ringed previously on Calf of Man and Bardsey; two ringed at Cemlyn on 12 July and one at RSPB South Stack on 7 Aug.

Max. monthly counts on Skokholm, PEMBROKE:

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
Skokholm	1	14	102	260	62	1

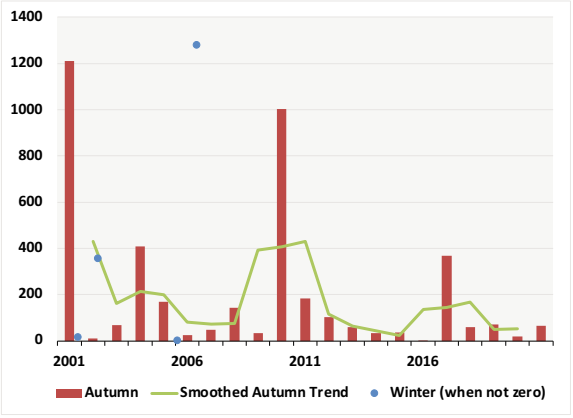
2019 GWENT: one off Goldcliff Pt on 10 Aug.

LEACH'S PETREL *Hydrobates leucorhous* PEDRYN-DRYCIN LEACH

Uncommon autumn visitor, most frequent off the North Wales coast and Cardigan Bay during storms in September. Wales Red listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1	7
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Leach's Petrels recorded in Wales, 2001-21



Another poor year for the species, and abundance even in successive 'big' years would appear to have reduced. Although it is not known from where Leach's Petrels in Welsh waters originate, the trend is in line with a 68% decline measured on St Kilda during 2000-19, a site that previously held almost all (94%) of Britain and Ireland's breeding pairs (Deakin 2021).

All singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: 56 passed Strumble Head, four on 29 Sept., 20 on 5 and 6 Oct., one on 21st, two on 29th, seven on 5 Nov., one on 21st and one on 8 Dec.; one picked up in the county was released at Strumble Head on 7 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 29 Sept. and four here on 5 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on

29 Sept.; Pt Lynas on 6 Oct.; DENBIGH: Pensarn on 5 Oct.; FLINT: Rhyl on 6 Oct.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* ADERYN DRYCIN Y GRAIG

Fairly common but declining breeding species. Frequent offshore in most months. The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	494	794
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

The BirdTrack reporting rate has been falling since 2013 but may have been accentuated by lockdowns in the last two years. The rate was 64% lower in 2019-21 than in 2013-15.

Breeding colony counts in 2021: 1389 AOS (*cf.* 1239, +12% the first increase for some years). Shaded figures show declines since the previous count.

County/Site	*AOS*	*Previous count (year)*
GOWER		
Rhossili/Fall Bay	5	5 (2020)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	101	84 (2019)
St. Margaret's Island	*c.*12	20 (2019)
Castlemartin peninsula	50	64 (2019)
Skokholm	225	207 (2020)
Skomer	576	580 (2020)
Ramsey	305	226 (2019)
CAERNARFON		
Great Orme	24	30 (2019)
Little Orme	8	2 (2020)
Carreg y Llam	4	2 (2019)
Bardsey	21	1 (2020)
ANGLESEY		
Puffin Island	50	16 (2019)
DENBIGH		
Llanddulas Quarries	8	2 (2020)

Other breeding records. E.GLAMORGAN: 25+ AON at Nash Pt on 9 May and nestlings between here and Llantwit Major during June; CAERNARFON: bred at Aberdaron; ANGLESEY: eight on ledges at Church Bay on 7 June; six AON between Moelfre and Lligwy on 19 June.

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: *c*.0.51 on Skokholm (*cf.* 0.51 in 2020) (Brown and Eagle 2022); 0.45 on Skomer, close to the 1986-2020 average of 0.46, and higher than 0.28 in 2020 and five-year average of 0.38 (Newman *et al.* 2021); 0.1 on Ramsey (*cf*. 0.42 in 2020) from a sample of 79 nests, the lowest on record; CAERNARFON: 0.57 on Bardsey (*cf*. 0.25 in 2020).

Non-breeding records/county maxima: GWENT: max. 12 off Goldcliff Pt on 21 May; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 at Nash Pt on 22 Jan., 12 here on 23 March and 21 on 16 Nov.; 20 passed Lavernock Pt on 6 Aug.; 14 off Porthcawl on 8 Aug.; GOWER: 11 at Port Eynon on 21 May; 11 at Salthouse Pt on 3 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: max. 34 at Telpyn Pt on 13 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 100+ off Strumble Head on 8 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 44 passed Mwnt on 16 Aug.; CAERNARFON: *c*.20 at Mynydd Cilan on 15 April; 21 at Mynydd Mawr on 8 Aug.; 15 at Porth Ysgaden on 9 July; ANGLESEY: *c*.25 at Pt Lynas on 5 April and 31 on 16 Aug.; 33 passed RSPB South Stack on 25 May; 22 at Lligwy on 25 Dec.

Max. monthly counts from Skokholm, PEMBROKE, and Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

Monthly maxima	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Skokholm	85	264	138	180	180	110	234	65	10	226	163
Bardsey		11	24	20	27	15	65	34	3		

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris borealis* ADERYN DRYCIN CORY

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 118 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one passed Strumble Head on 8 Aug.

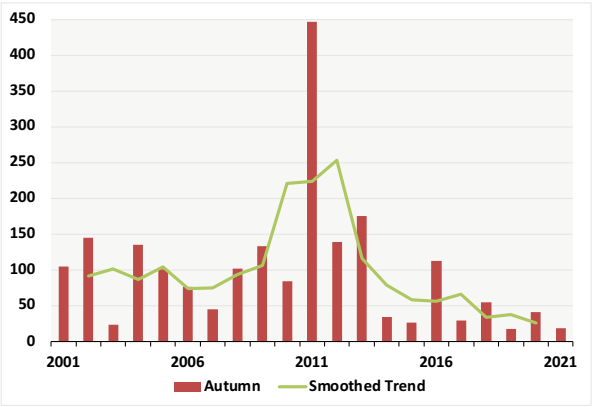
SOOTY SHEARWATER *Ardenna grisea* ADERYN DRYCIN DU

Uncommon autumn passage migrant, though numbers vary. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	10	2
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The second lowest total this century, and the lowest Bardsey count in many years. Although the global population remains large, it is classified as Near Threatened because of a moderately rapid decline owing to the impact of fisheries, the harvesting of young and possibly climate change. It really is now hard to imagine a repeat of the 397 that were recorded from Strumble Head in one day in 1983.

Sooty Shearwaters recorded in Wales, 2001-21



All records, singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 7 Aug., two here on 8th and singles on 16 Aug., 29 and 30 Sept., 7 and 26 Nov., and 7 and 10 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 11 Sept. and two here on 12th; CAERNARFON: south off Bardsey on 22 Aug. and 17 Sept.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Ardenna gravis* ADERYN DRYCIN MAWR

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 290 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one in the Celtic Deep on 3 Aug.; two passed Strumble Head on 6 Aug.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* ADERYN DRYCIN MANAW

Breeds on Pembrokeshire islands and Bardsey, which hold over half the global population. Large feeding movements and autumn passage off western coasts and even well up into the Bristol Channel. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	277	426
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: responses from 1410 burrows in study plots on Skomer (*cf*. 1418 in 2019); 670 occupied burrows (*cf*. 730 in 2020) in a sample study area of 8000m^2 on Skokholm (Brown and Eagle 2022).

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: *c*.0.79 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.68 in 2020) (Brown and Eagle 2022); 0.43 fledged young per egg laid at the Isthmus study plot on Skomer (*cf*. 0.65 in 2020), below the 10-year (0.56) and 1995-2021 (0.59) averages (Newman *et al*. 2021); CAERNARFON: 0.65 on Bardsey (*cf*. 0.74 in 2020), 3.3% below the 10-year mean.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON, and Skokholm, PEMBROKE:

	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	18	2500	289	5000	2159	10,000	60	71		
Skokholm	400	8300	16,340	10,000	10,800	16,360	423	17	1	1

Other large counts: GWENT: seven off Goldcliff Pt on 3 May; E.GLAMORGAN: 300 at Lavernock Pt on 3 May and 700 here on 6 Aug.; 255 at Porthcawl on 9 May, 340 here on 16th and 300 on 6 Aug.; one flying south at Abercwmboi on 11 Sept. was 31 km from the nearest coast at Swansea Bay and apparently only the second record in Rhondda Cynon Taf (last in Sept. 1937); GOWER: max. 200+ at Worm's Head on 11 April; *c*.200 off Tutt Head on 22 May; 200+ at Thurba Head on 26 June; 100 off Rhossili/Fall Bay on 4 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: max. *c*.670 off Cefn Sidan on 26 May, *c*.1920 here on 23 June, *c*.7000 on 23-24 July and *c*.3000 on 23 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 10,000 at Ynyslas on 16 July, 5000 here on 18-19th, 1000 on 23rd and 3000 on 24th; 2000 at New Quay on 19 July; 1701 at Mwnt on 16 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 400 off Aberdysynni on 20 June and 686 here on 4 July; 1000s close inshore off Aberdyfi on 18 July presumed to be part of the flock off Ynyslas, CEREDIGION; CAERNARFON: 300 off Porthdinllaen on 10 June; *c*.250 off Uwchmynydd on 12 June, 500+ here on 7 Aug. and 1200 on 8th; 481 at Porth Ysgaden on 2 June, several four-figure

counts here in July, including max. 5024 on 17th and 430 on 30 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 1494 passed RSPB South Stack on 22 May, 2197 here in two hours on 1 Aug. and 6381 in 2.5 hours on 16th; 250 passed Pt Lynas on 8 Aug.; 770 here on 16th and 300 on 22nd.

2019 GWENT correction: count off Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 16 June was 350 (not 300 as published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019).

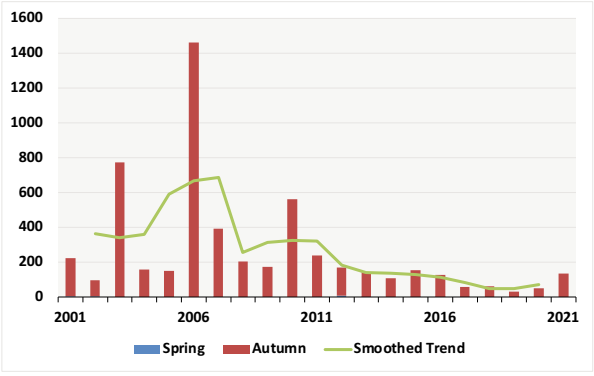
BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* ADERYN DRYCIN BALEARIG

Uncommon autumn migrant to western coasts, though larger numbers can occur in the Celtic Sea (e.g. 23% of the global population in 2014, Phillips et al. 2021). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	11	14
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

It was the best autumn since 2015, with 136 individuals, but numbers of this globally threatened species remain far lower than in the first decade of the century and below the annual average during 2010-19.

Balearic Shearwaters recorded in Wales, 2001-21



All records, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 7 Aug., the ninth county record and first since Aug. 2016; CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan on 23 Aug., fourth county record and first since 2011; PEMBROKE: 19 passed Strumble Head in Aug. (max. seven on 15th and 16th), singles on four dates in Sept., 61 in Oct. (max. 24 on 1st) and one on 1 Nov.; two in the Celtic Deep on 30 Aug.; two off Skokholm on 8 Aug. and singles here on 2 and 3 Oct.; CEREDIGION: five passed Mwnt on 16 Aug., eight here on 12 Sept., two on each of 15, 19 and 20 Sept., one on 22nd and 23rd, six on 29th and two on 1 Oct.; Llanrhystud on 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 16 and 29 Sept., four here daily on 1-3 Oct. and one on 4th; Porth Ysgaden on 23 Sept. and 3 Oct.; Aberdaron on 3 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Pt Lynas on 14 and 16 Aug.; RSPB South Stack on 16 Aug.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* HUGAN

One breeding colony: Grassholm, Pembrokeshire, where numbers increased from c.7000 AON in 1948 to 36,000 AON in 2015. Elsewhere, occurs off all coasts throughout the year. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	770	1264
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	5%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: large breeding colony on Grassholm, but no count undertaken; ANGLESEY: at least three pairs displayed at Ynys Badrig on 15 May although there was no evidence of breeding.

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate for Gannet, much like other passage seabirds, has halved since 2013-15, suggesting that relatively fewer seawatching records are being submitted.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON, and Skokholm, PEMBROKE:

Monthly maxima	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Skokholm	3	36	46	161	198	468	549	662	236	36	12
Bardsey		16	39	25	50	60	190	1453	1210		

Other notable counts and county max. GWENT: max. 30 at Goldcliff Pt on 3 May; E.GLAMORGAN: 53 off Cardiff Bay barrage on 11 March; 200 off Lavernock Pt on 3 May and 20 here on 6 Aug.; 18 at Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 31 Oct.; GOWER: max. 45 at Port Eynon on 10 Jan.; 50+ feeding off Aberavon on 2 July; CARMARTHEN: 75 off Cefn Sidan on 3 May, *c.*150 here on 11 June and *c.*100 on 22 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 100+ off Strumble Head on 8 Aug. and 200+ on 6 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 275 off Ynyslas on 21 April; 260 at Borth on 4 May; 500 at Mwnt on 22 Sept., 371 here on 23rd and 500 on 5 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 30 off Trefeddian on 24 April; 34 off Aberdysynni on 20 June and 30 here on 12 Sept.; CAERNARFON: *c.*150 off Dinas Dinlle on 11 May; 239 off Uwchmynydd on 8 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 150 off Cemlyn on 13 March; *c.*125 off Pt Lynas on 5 April, 150 here on 17 Aug., 260 on 29 Sept., 140 on 6

Oct. and 110 on 21 Nov.; 210 between Cemlyn and Carmel Head on 1 Oct.; DENBIGH: 20+ off Llanddulas on 27 March; FLINT: six off Gronant on 27 April.

2019 GWENT correction: count off Goldcliff Pt on 10 Aug. was 12 (not nine as published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019)

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* MULFRAN

Breeding resident in coastal counties. Frequent offshore elsewhere. Regular inland. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022). Continental Cormorant (P.c. sinensis) occurs in small, but unknown numbers.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	4608	5371
% of BirdTrack lists	22%	24%

Breeding colony counts in 2021: 1050 Apparently Occupied Nests (AON), a 33% reduction since the last survey of these sites (1568 AON), most obviously at the three large colonies in North Wales. In West Wales, the St Margaret's Island colony was at its lowest since 1960, but a nest on Cardigan Island was unusual. Shaded figures show declines since the previous count.

County/Site	*AON*	*Previous count (year)*
PEMBROKE		
St Margaret's Island	112	123 (2019)
Middleholm	*c.*10	*c.*8 (2019)
Skomer	0	1 (2019)
CARDIGAN		
Cardigan Island	1	0 (2019)
MONTGOMERY		
Llyn Coed-y-dinas	3	2 (2020)
MEIRIONNYDD		
Craig yr Aderyn	32	55
CAERNARFON		
Carreg y Llam	0	6 (2019)
Ynysoedd Gwylan	10	20 (2019)
Great Orme	53	147 (2019)
Little Orme	428	501 (2019)
ANGLESEY		
Puffin Island	402	695 (2019)
RSPB South Stack	11	10 (2019)

Fledging productivity. MONTGOMERY: six at Llyn Coed-y-dinas (2.0/nest); CAERNARFON: 2.3 young/nest on Ynys Gwylan Fawr, 51.8% above the 10-year mean.

GWENT/BRECON: a BTO survey of the R.Usk in April/May estimated the population to be 13 birds, compared to 65 observed along the same stretch during the previous winter (Macgregor *et al.* 2022).

Non-breeding: The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fell by 20% between 2016/17 and 2019/20, but was 46% higher than 25 years previously. A survey of piscivorous birds was undertaken by BTO Cymru of *c.*956km of 11 Welsh rivers in Dec. 2020 and a resurvey of half the main channels, plus visits to one-third of their tributaries (*c.*900km) and adjacent stillwaters, in Jan. and Feb. 2021. During these surveys 564 Cormorants were observed, of which 50% were on estuaries and 6% were on stillwaters.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥50 birds at least once during the year.

>50 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
All rivers survey	52	82	31	43	13							
E.GLAMORGAN												
*Cardiff Bay	83	61	62	24	12	18	34	29	35	23	47	33
GOWER												
Swansea Docks		25										107
Whiteford			54	15	5	20		9	45	32	15	20
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	36	36	29	9	11	12	17	33	62	160	59	55
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake			25						87+	95	123	130
CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD												
RSPB Ynys-hir/Glandyfi	2	6	2		2			48	60	58	32	19
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater/Aberdysynni				17		60	110	132	84	50		9
CAERNARFON												
Great Orme	2		*c.*50	20+	*c.*20	50+	2	37	5		38	16+
Little Orme	*c.*55	*c.*35	*c.*55	32	*c.*130	100+	30	483	101		10+	21
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Valley Wetlands	44	60	21	11	7	8	10	7	8	12	24	31
FLINT												
Gronant	7	19	29	122	315	*c.*200	59	135	*c.*100	188	331	*c.*250
Clwyd estuary	51	22	58	116	128	72	118	209	138	227	140	33

The Dee catchment held 30% of this total, the Wye catchment 23% and the Usk catchment 16%. Seven other rivers each held 9% or less, and there was none on the Teifi. The Welsh wintering population was estimated to be 2894 Cormorants. (Taylor *et al.* 2022).

*includes Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve

Counts ≥50 elsewhere: ANGLESEY: 55 at Ynys Moelfre on 3 Feb.; DENBIGH: 53 at Penmaenhead on 13 Sept.; FLINT: *c*.50 at Connah's Quay NR on 4 Oct. CEREDIGION: 30 at Lampeter on 7 Dec. was a high inland count

2019 GWENT: 55 AON on Denny Island, similar to count in 2018.

SHAG *Gulosus aristotelis* MULFRAN WERDD

Localised breeding species on rocky coasts from Gower to Anglesey. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	731	952
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

Breeding: 338 AON at sites monitored previously, a 38% increase since the last survey (245 AON). The count at Middleholm was the lowest since 1980 but that on Bardsey was third highest total since 1953.

Shaded figures show declines since the previous count.

County/Site	*AON*	*Previous count (year)*
PEMBROKE		
Middleholm	13	18 (2019)
St Margaret's Island	3	1 (2019)
Skomer	2	3 (2020)
Castlemartin peninsula	6	3 (2019)
CARDIGAN		
Cardigan Island	4	
CAERNARFON		
Carreg y Llam	9	7 (2019)
Bardsey	59	39 (2020)
Ynysoedd Gwylan	45	52 (2019)
Little Orme	29	0 (2019)
ANGLESEY		
Puffin Island	172	122 (2019)
The Skerries	7	4 (2019)

Also, GOWER: probably bred at Devil's Truck (*cf*. one at Butterslade in 2020).

Fledging productivity: CAERNARFON: 133 fledged on Bardsey (2.25/nest); 71 young on Ynys Gwylan Fawr (1.82/nest), 11.1% higher than 2012-2021 mean; ANGLESEY: nine fledged on The Skerries (1.29/nest).

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index suggests a stable population, but may not be representative of their favoured rocky coasts. The mean annual BirdTrack reporting rate fell 56% between 2013-15 and 2019-21, but at least some of this probably results from fewer seawatches in recent years, evident in the rate for more pelagic species.

Max. monthly counts from sites in CAERNARFON.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey			22	76	44	65	162	176	87	54		
Great Orme	4+		6+	5	8	100+	15+	1	4	1	30+	5
Little Orme	1	16	*c*.12	18	8	100+	18				50+	100+

Max. counts elsewhere: GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 5 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Sker Pt on 21 Jan., 14 April, 7 Nov. and 10 Dec.; GOWER: 17 at Queen's Dock, Swansea, on 11 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: two at Telpyn Pt on 18 April; PEMBROKE: 10 at Skokholm on 30 July and 13 here on 10 Aug.; 10 at St Brides on 30 Aug.; 10 off Strumble Head on 6 Oct.; 13 at Elegug Stacks on 13 Nov.; 10 at Fishguard Harbour on 10 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 30 near Cardigan Island on 4 Aug.; 30 at Gwbert on 17 Aug.; 30 at Aberystwyth on 17 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 at Tonfanau on 23 Nov.; 15 at Broadwater in Dec.; CAERNARFON: 21 at Traeth Lafan in March; 25 off Porth Ysgaden on 7 July, 36 here on 31 Aug. and 25 on 4 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 30 at Ynys Moelfre on 3 Feb.; 27 at Penmon Pt on 12 Aug.; 80 passed Pt Lynas on 2 Dec.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellis* IBIS DDU

Uncommon but increasing visitor from Europe. WBRC: 143 previous records.

All records were single birds. GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from 2020 until 22 Jan., with one remaining until 1 March; GOWER: Bwlchmynydd, Upper Loughor est., on 30 Aug., presumed to be one of the birds at Penclacwydd (below); two between Dunvant and Gowerton on 15 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: two at Penclacwydd on 26 Aug, one remaining until 30th; PEMBROKE: over Skomer on 11 Oct. and presumed same at Gann est. on 28-30th.

Glossy Ibis (Jeff Slocombe)

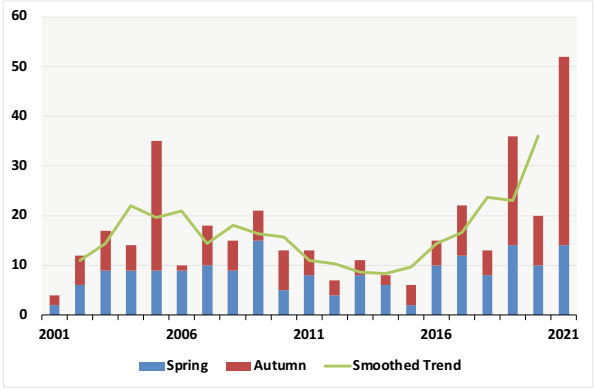
SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* LLWYBIG

Uncommon visitor to Wales, mainly to coastal wetlands, in autumn, but increasingly in spring and summer. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	171	140
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A record year, with perhaps more than 50 individuals, although it is difficult to track mobile birds between counties. With 62 breeding pairs in England (2022), it should be no surprise that the trend is strongly upwards. Although breeding habitat in Wales is limited, how long before we hear the clatter of tiny spoons…?

Spoonbills recorded in Wales, based on max. in each county in each season 2001-21



Numbers at sites with records in at least three different months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands			1	1	1	1	1			7		
GOWER												
Burry Inlet (south)	2								1	4		3
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	6	6	6	1					1	11	10	10
ANGLESEY												
RSPB Cors Ddyga				2	1	3					3	1

Elsewhere, singles unless stated: GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 1 Sept.; St Brides on 10 Oct., West Pill on 12th and Peterstone Wentlooge on

17th presumed same as at Newport Wetlands; GOWER: Port Talbot harbour on 15 May; Morriston on 9 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Llanelli on 16 March, presumed same as Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: over Skomer on 24 May; MEIRIONNYDD: Glaslyn est. on 5 June; ANGLESEY: two at Four Mile Bridge on 30 May; over Holyhead and Beddmanarch Bay on 23 Aug.; Inland Sea on 16 Oct.

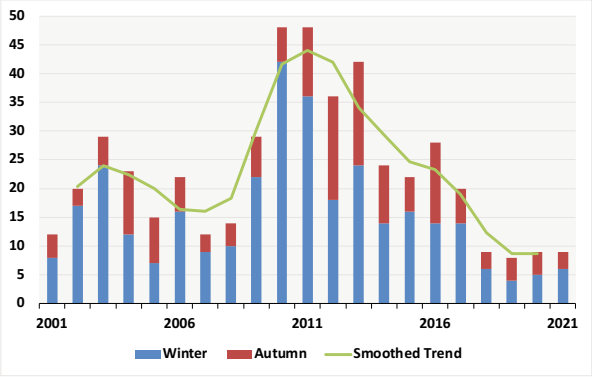
2019 GWENT, correction: there was one at Newport Wetlands in Aug. and eight (not seven) in Sept.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* ADERYN Y BWN

Uncommon but regular winter visitor and, since 2016, breeding species. RBBP: seven booming males and three nests in 2020. Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	33	92
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Non-breeding Bitterns recorded in Wales, 2001-21



Breeding season: seven booming males: GWENT: one booming male at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth), two nests from which one chick fledged; ANGLESEY: three booming males at RSPB Cors Ddyga and three at RSPB Valley Wetlands, with another on adjacent land. In addition, a Bittern was reported in E.GLAMORGAN, at Kenfig NNR on 16 May, and one fed regularly in FLINT, at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, where a pair bred on the Wirral side.

Non-breeding: it is fascinating that the number of non-breeding records, especially in winter, has fallen just at the time that breeding has become established. The decline in the chart is partly an artefact of the removal from reporting of the few breeding sites once nesting has been confirmed, but this also suggests that these individuals are less mobile than previously and perhaps the earlier totals over-estimated the number involved.

Records away from breeding sites, all single birds. First winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig NNR on 1 Jan.; Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 13-18 Jan.; GOWER: Gowerton saltmarsh on 17 Jan.; CEREDIGION: filmed on a remote camera at Cors Fochno on 25 March; ANGLESEY: Llanddaniel on 7 Feb.

Second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig NNR on 21 Oct. and 3-31 Dec.; GOWER: Oxwich Marsh on 20 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: in the south of the county on 8 Sept.

2019 GWENT, correction: two booming males at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) may not be correct. Booming was heard from 24 Feb. to 9 June, but the only date on which two birds were seen was 22 Nov.

SQUACCO HERON *Ardeola ralloides* CREYR MELYN

Rare visitor from Europe, BBRC: 12 previous records.

CEREDIGION: adult at RSPB Ynys-hir on 13-14 May; FLINT: 1CY+ at Big Pool Wood, Talacre, on 15-26 Sept.

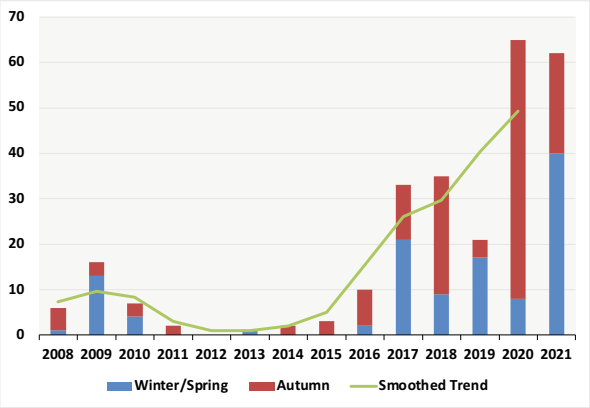
CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* CREYR GWARTHEG

Uncommon, but increasing, visitor from Europe. Nested just over the Flintshire border at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands in 2017, 2019 and 2020. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	163	147
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

It is becoming difficult to determine how many birds are involved in sightings, especially in southern Wales, but it could be that as many as 62 were present in 2021, with a high proportion in the first half of the year. The flock of 17 in PEMBROKE is by far the largest ever recorded in

Cattle Egrets recorded in Wales, 2001-21



Wales (*cf.* 10 in 2020).

Singles unless stated: GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 2 Sept.; St Brides Wentlooge on 23-31 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: near Village Farm, Bonvilson, on 5 Jan.; nine at Kenfig NNR on 9-10 June, one here on 12-13 June and seven over Kenfig Pool on 1 Oct.; GOWER: Morfa Tip on 13 June, presumed same as Kenfig NNR; CARMARTHEN: two at Kidwelly Quay and one on Pembrey Airfield on 1 Jan.; Penclacwydd on 7 June; Penallt Farm, Kidwelly, from 26 Dec. into 2022; PEMBROKE: 11 at Quoits Marsh in Jan., increasing to 17 on 3 Feb. and some remaining until 8 March, when four were reported; presumed returning birds here from 13 Nov., six increasing to nine on 3 Dec.; Carew Cheriton on 21 May; Gann est. on 21-22 May and from 21 Oct. to 18 Nov.; Fishguard Harbour on 29 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren on 14 Aug. and 15 Oct.; ANGLESEY: RSPB Valley Wetlands from 11 Jan. to 27 March; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 1 July and 17 Aug.; Bodedern on 11 Oct.; FLINT: on the upper Dee est. from Jan. to March, max. seven on 11 March and two in Sept./Oct.; two at Flint on 12 June.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* CREYR GLAS

Fairly common resident species. The BTO Heronries Census estimated 797 (694-951) AON in 2019 and showed declines of 36% since 1935 and 22% during 2008-18. Count unit is Apparently Occupied Nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3960	4354
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	18%

The Breeding Bird Survey trend fluctuates over the long-term, but remains only a little below the baseline, whereas the UK results from the dedicated BTO Heronries Census show a decline of more than 20% in the last 15 years.

Breeding (AON). E.GLAMORGAN: 32 in five heronries; CARMARTHEN: one at Commissioner's Bridge; 17 at Allt Bryn-Myrddin; GOWER: 23-25 in seven heronries; PEMBROKE: 33-37 in seven heronries; BRECON: 75 in eight heronries, the largest being 29 at Ashford and 18 at Cefnrhosan; RADNOR: five at Leech Pool; MONTGOMERY: 32 at The Flash, Welshpool; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 at Dolgellau; CAERNARFON: 50 at seven heronries, the largest being 15 at Glynllifon.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥10 birds at least once during the year.

>10 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth estuary			2	3	3	3	7	5	5	10	13	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	10		17						24	15	16	12
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	8	1	5	1	1	2	5	19	25	27	23	8
Foryd			5		1	2	5	7	7	18	3	4
ANGLESEY												
Beddmanarch-Cymyran	3		8	7	7	6	6	4	12	4	10	12
RSPB Cors Ddyga			1						7	10	11	11
DENBIGH												
Conwy estuary		4	9	20	28	14	15	11	10	6	10	22

Other counts ≥10: E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at The Watermill flood on 22 May; 10 at Flemingston on 19 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 10 at Glan Faenol on 1 Jan.; 10 at Pwllheli on 29 Aug.

2019 GWENT, additional information: 57 AON (*cf.* 67 in 2018) at eight heronries, the largest being 19 at Piercefield.

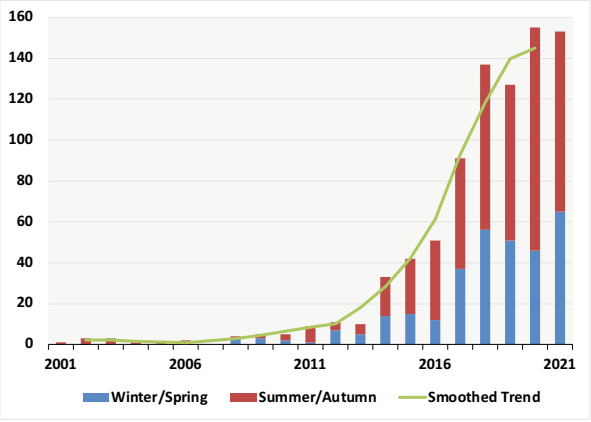
GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba* CREYR MAWR GWYN

Uncommon but increasingly regular visitor at any time of the year. RBBP: possibly bred in E.Glamorgan in 2020, and bred on Wirral side of the Dee estuary from 2019. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1028	790
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Breeding: GOWER: two in courtship at R. Kenfig saltmarsh/Morfa Tip on 20 March and early April, but no further sightings.

Great White Egrets recorded in Wales, sum of site max. in each season 2001-21



Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate reached another new high (2.7%), and the three year mean (2019-21) is eight times higher than in 2013-15. It is no longer feasible to calculate accurately the number of individuals in Wales, so the site maxima in each period are used to generate a trend. The 'flock' of 21 at Connah's Quay NR, FLINT, in Aug. is a new Welsh record (*cf.* 12 in Gower in 2020) and presumably included the result of three nesting pairs on the Wirral side of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Numbers in each county.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT				5		5	1		2	3	1	
E.GLAMORGAN			1	2	3	2		2		1	1	
GOWER			2	2		1						
Burry Inlet (south)	7	9	1-2	1-2		1-2		1-2	1-2	5	8	9
CARMARTHEN	1					5	2		2	2	1	
Gwendraeth est.	1	2	3	3	2	2	2	4	5	2	8	2
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	2	1	3	4		1	1		1	1	1	1
PEMBROKE			1			1	3+	2+	2+	3+	3+	3+
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	2	1	2	2	3	1		1	3	3	3	3
CEREDIGION	1	1							1			
Cors Caron	1	1			1			2	1	1	3	
BRECON	2	2						1			1	2
Llangorse Lake	3	3	4-5	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	5	10
RADNOR	1		1									
MONTGOMERY		6							1	6		
Dolydd Hafren	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1
MEIRIONNYDD	1	1	2			1	1			1	1	
CAERNARFON				1	2		3	3	4	2		
ANGLESEY	2	2	3	1	4			1	3	2		
RSPB Cors Ddyga			2	3					2	2	2	2
Llyn Alaw									8	7		
DENBIGH	1	4	1									2
RSPB Conwy						4	3	3	2	2	4	1
FLINT	1	3		3	6	8	13	21	14	10	6	3

Largest groups (included in the table): GOWER: nine at Staffal Haegr on 28 Feb. and at Llanrhidian on 18 Dec.; BRECON: 10 at Llangorse Lake on 20-21 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: six at Caersws on 21 Feb.; five at Llyn Coed-y-dinas on 11 Oct.; FLINT: 21 at Connah's Quay NR on 22 Aug. (and two others in other Dee est. WeBS sectors on the same date).

2019 GWENT: the figures below replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

Monthly max.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT					2	1			8		2	

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* CREYR BACH

Rare but increasing breeder - RBBP: 64 nests at 10 sites in 2020 (but counts limited by travel restrictions). Fairly common autumn migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3269	3727
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	15%

Breeding: *c.*78 AON: GOWER: 3-4 at one site; CARMARTHEN: 12 at one site and two at another; MONTGOMERY: three in Welshpool; MEIRIONNYDD: 3-4 pairs summered at Hengwrt heronry, Dolgellau; CAERNARFON: 29 at Abercegin (60 individuals counted on 24 June), possibly the largest in Wales; 24 at Glynllifon and at least two at Benarth, Conwy; ANGLESEY: 10+ young in Bodorgan heronry in June; FLINT: 22 AON at RSPB Pt of Ayr.

Non-breeding: the long-term trend is strongly upward, but the Wetland Bird Survey index fell by 21% between 2016/17 and 2019/20. The BirdTrack reporting rate recovered following a slight fall in 2020, but has been very consistent since 2013. The WeBS count on the Dee est. on 22 Aug. recorded 322 across the site, of which 202 were in FLINT, a national record.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding ≥30 birds at least once during the year.

≥30 birds	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Burry Inlet (south)						32				149*		
Upper Loughor estuary	2	3	8	15	9	7	14	17	38	18	33	5
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	6	4	7	6	3	10	30	17	118	119	6	4
Gwendraeth estuary	25		11	11	4	6	21	17	34	18	24	6
Llangennech		7		11	6			41	47	22		16
Tywi estuary			9	8	7	7	2	1	60	20	15	3
Taf estuary	3		10						63	61	53	6
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	14	1	6	5	7	40+	50	114	50	131	54	27
Foryd			8	16	7	15	53	37	38	43	9	17
DENBIGH												
Conwy estuary	P	P	P	8	18	20	44	87	53	27	25	11
FLINT												
Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR							70	88	80	43	30	
Bagillt Bank							37	97		33		
Walwen Fields								98		45		
Point of Ayr						40		20	42			10

Other site maxima ≥30: CARMARTHEN: 55 at Pencoed Isaf, Bynea, on 16 Sept. and 65 roosted here on 28 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 39 to roost in Newborough Forest on 6 Feb.; 30 at Traeth Coch on 6 Aug. and 23 Sept.; 58 on the Inland Sea on 31 Aug.; FLINT: 32 at Craxton Wood on 5 Feb.

* at Salthouse Point, GOWER on 17 Oct. included birds on the CARMARTHEN side.

2019 GWENT, correction: 16 AON at two colonies, including 15 at Magor Marsh where an increase may relate to abandonment of a colony at Whitson Court.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* GWALCH PYSGOD

Rare breeder since 2004 - RBBP: six nests and two other territories in 2020. Elsewhere, an uncommon passage migrant.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	153	213
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: six nests, although young fledged from only four (including the first in Caernarfonshire), but birds summered at four other sites. PEMBROKE: two summered on upper Cleddau est. (one ringed as a chick near Wigtown, Galloway, in 2019); BRECON: one ringed as a chick at Loch Lomond in 2018 was in the Usk Valley in April, May and August; MONTGOMERY: nest at Cors Dyfi fledged two young; nest at Llyn Clywedog fledged one; MEIRIONNYDD: long-standing nest at Glaslyn failed to fledge any young after the male was injured in a storm, so three chicks starved; second nest in area fledged two; pair summered in the south of the county; CAERNARFON: nest at Pont Croesor (additional to the two in Meirionnydd) fledged one chick, the first successful breeding in the county; ANGLESEY: five individuals in the Cefni Valley during the summer, two of which had

been ringed in Scotland and one on the Dyfi (KS6); DENBIGH: nest at Llyn Brenig, believed to contain an egg, was cut down deliberately and destroyed overnight on 30 April. The crime remains unsolved.

Number present in each county, excluding those at or near nest sites.

Monthly totals	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT	1	1	1				1	
E.GLAMORGAN	1	2+				1	2	3
GOWER		1	1			2	3	
CARMARTHEN		1	2		2	3	1	
PEMBROKE	1	1	2	3	3	6	2	1
CEREDIGION		2				2	1	
BRECON	1	3	1			3	1	1
MEIRIONNYDD	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	
CAERNARFON		6		4	2	3	4	
ANGLESEY		3		2	1	1	1	
DENBIGH		6	4			2		
FLINT		2		1	1			

2019 GWENT, additional information:

Monthly totals	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT		3	1				2	

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* BODA MEL

Rare breeder since 1992. Population estimated at 14-20 pairs but under-reported. RBBP: 2-5 pairs in 2020. Rare on passage elsewhere. Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	4	6
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: GOWER: one site; BRECON: two at a potential breeding location.

Single birds elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: adult male at Penrhiwceiber on 10 Aug.; different adult at Langdon Court Farm, near Pontypridd, on 25 Aug; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-2 reported but no evidence of breeding.

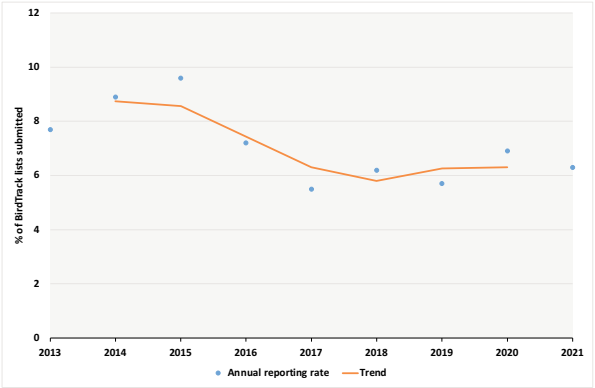
SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* GWALCH GLAS

Fairly common resident (2950 breeding pairs).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1838	1745
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	6%

The UK Breeding Bird Survey trend fell to a new low in 2021, 25% below its 1995 baseline (and 34% below the peak in 2001), but no trend is produced for Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate has levelled out in recent years but is lower than in the early part of the last decade, and there has been a fall in the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate since 2010.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Sparrowhawk in Wales 2013-21



GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* GWALCH MARTH

(Re)introduced (Category C) breeding resident, probably in all Welsh counties (310 pairs). RBBP: 50-87 pairs in 2020. Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	262	266
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding season records: E.GLAMORGAN: one confirmed, four probable and one possible breeding pairs; GOWER: present at four sites; CARMARTHEN: two breeding records; PEMBROKE: recorded at eight locations; BRECON: breeding confirmed at 14 sites, probably bred at seven more, and possibly at five others; MONTGOMERY: estimated 40 breeding pairs; MEIRIONNYDD: three pairs in Dolgellau area and at three other locations; CAERNARFON: recorded at six locations, although no evidence of breeding reported; DENBIGH: 13 sites.

Selected records outside breeding season: GWENT: 19 locations; E.GLAMORGAN: 72 locations; CARMARTHEN: 21 records; PEMBROKE: 23+ locations; CAERNARFON: 11 locations; ANGLESEY: eight records; DENBIGH: 24 locations; FLINT: three locations.

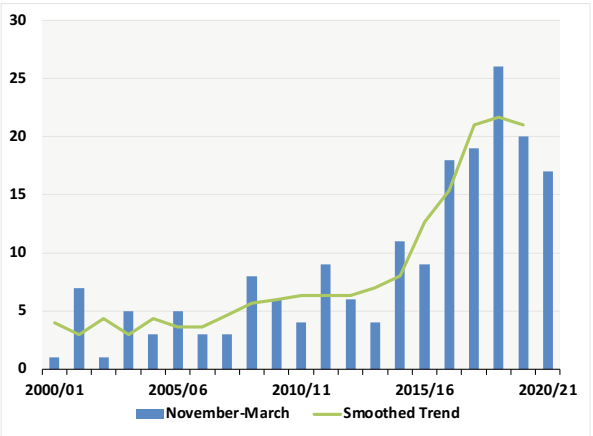
2019 GWENT: 29 nests, including 24 in a monitored population in the south and east of the county where productivity was 1.6 fledged young/nest.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* BODA'R GWERNI

Rare breeder. RBBP: four nests in two counties in 2020. Small numbers winter.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	535	551
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Wintering Marsh Harriers recorded in Wales, based on county max. during Nov.-March, 2001-21



The BirdTrack reporting rate has increased steadily, by three-fold since 2013-15, in line with the species' return as a breeding bird to Wales and expansion elsewhere in the UK. The number of wintering birds had been increasing, and the lower numbers in 2020/21 may partly be a result of travel restrictions, but sites with breeding birds are not included in the chart and table.

Breeding season: six nests, but fledging confirmed from only three. GWENT: pair fledged one chick at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) and a second pair present; E.GLAMORGAN: up to four at Kenfig NNR in March and three in April but no evidence of breeding; GOWER: bred at one site - three adults and two juveniles seen from 16 July; ANGLESEY: three nests at RSPB Cors Ddyga, min. two young fledged; pair at RSPB Valley Wetlands but nest failed.

Wing-tagged: orange R6 at Dunraven,

Records away from known breeding sites.

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	1	1					1	1	2	2		
Kenfig NNR	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
GOWER				1			1					
CARMARTHEN		2		1			1	2	1	1	1	
PEMBROKE	3	2	2	1			1	3	3		1	4
CEREDIGION					2	1	1	2	4	3	1	1
BRECON			1	1						1		1
MONTGOMERY							1					
MEIRIONNYDD			1									
CAERNARFON			1	1					1			
ANGLESEY		1		1			1		1	1	1	
DENBIGH	1			2	1	1		1	3	2	1	2
FLINT	3	1		2	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	4

E.GLAMORGAN, on 8 Sept. was a juvenile male ringed near the nest at Loddon, Norfolk, on 23 June.

2019 GWENT: pair fledged three young at Newport Wetlands Reserve, bringing the Wales total that year to eight nests and 11 fledged.

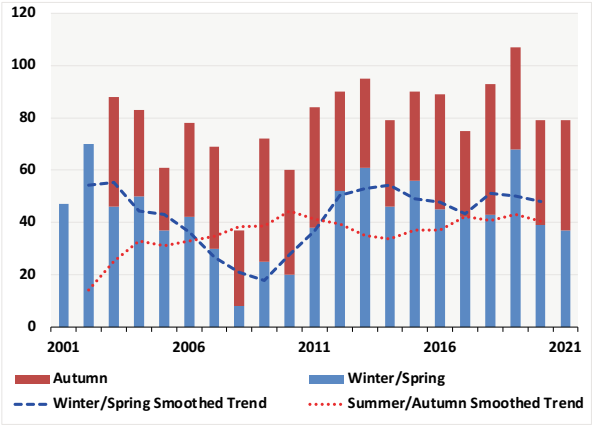
HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* BODA TINWEN

Rare breeder in the uplands of north and mid-Wales. RBBP: 25-41 pairs in 2020. Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	269	257
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding. 30 territorial pairs and 25 nests found. From the 22 nests monitored, 36 young fledged, an average of 1.64 young/nest. Six chicks were fitted with GPS satellite tags by the RSPB in 2021, funded by Natural Resources Wales.

Non-breeding Hen Harriers recorded in Wales, sum of site maxima in each season 2001-21



RADNOR: nest above the Wye Valley failed; BRECON: at least one pair bred in the north of the county; MONTGOMERY: two young fledged at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; two territories at MWT Glaslyn reserve but neither was successful; MEIRIONNYDD: 18 territories with 17 confirmed nests, 15 of which had min. 51 eggs and from which at least 39 chicks hatched and 22 fledged (from six nests); CAERNARFON: five fledged from a nest in Migneint; three fledged from a nest in the Carneddau but nest-building by another pair was abandoned; single males in the northern Carneddau and Glyderau in April; DENBIGH: four fledged from one nest, but three other territories appear not to have resulted in breeding.

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate was lower than usual in 2021, at least in part because of few reports during lockdown in the first winter period. The three year mean (2019-21) is almost identical to that for 2013-15 however. Records from bird reports show that sightings in winter/spring have recovered following a dip in the 2000s.

Summary of records for each county.

Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	1		2								1	
E.GLAMORGAN	2	1	1	1					2	1	3	
GOWER	1	1							2	5	2	1
Burry Inlet (south)	1	1	1								3	3
CARMARTHEN	1	5			1				2	4	3	2
PEMBROKE	2	2	1	2	1					1	5	6
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	2							3				
CEREDIGION	3	2	2				1			1	1+	
Cors Caron	3							3				
BRECON			3	1				1		4	3	4
MONTGOMERY										1		
MEIRIONNYDD	1		2	2	1	1	1	2	3		1	
CAERNARFON	2	2	4			1		3				2
ANGLESEY	1	2	3	1		1				1	1	3
DENBIGH	1	2	4						3	1	2	4
FLINT	1	1	1	1					1	2	2	1

Colour-ring resightings. FLINT: a male at Gronant in Feb. had been ringed as a nestling in Texel, Netherlands, in May 2019.

Syrcas goes south

Of six Hen Harriers satellite-tagged as chicks in Welsh nests in 2021, one made an extraordinary journey. A male, Syrcas, fledged from a nest in the Migneint Special Protection Area, CAERNARFON, in July 2020 and roamed widely across Wales until 7 October. He then headed south, staging for two days in Cornwall. Over almost 72 hours, he headed across the Bay of Biscay and then the open Atlantic Ocean west of Galicia, before turning southeast and making landfall near Lisbon. He settled for the winter in the Beja region of southern Portugal, 1755km away from his natal nest and farther south than any ringed or tagged British or Irish Hen Harrier has been recorded (the previous record, of 1615km was also a Welsh-ringed bird, in 1993). Around the time he might have been expected to begin a northward journey, on 19 February 2022, Syrcas' tag stopped transmitting in circumstances that suggested foul play. A ground search by Portuguese government conservation officers could not find a body, but they reported to the RSPB that they were investigating several suspicious raptor deaths in the immediate area. Information provided by RSPB Cymru.

2019 GWENT: the figures below replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

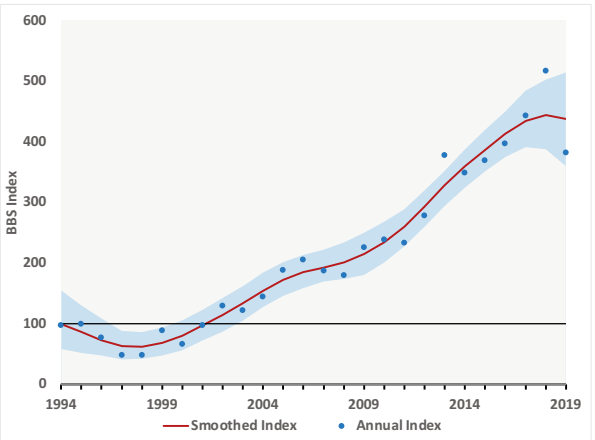
Monthly totals	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT			1					1	1	4RT	4M	1M, 2RT

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* BARCUD COCH

Recovered population following near extinction early in the 20th century (1350 breeding pairs), although remains uncommon within 30km of coast. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1945	2427
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	9%

Breeding Bird Survey: Red Kite in Wales, 1994-2021



The Breeding Bird Survey index has dropped back in the last couple of years, after decades of increase. Nonetheless, the 376% increase is the greatest of any native species in Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate reached another new high in 2021.

Selected breeding records outside core areas: E.GLAMORGAN: bred at three locations, probably at another seven and possibly at another two; GOWER: breeding suspected at two sites; ANGLESEY: bred for the second successive year.

Large counts included: CEREDIGION: up to 200 reported at Bwlch Nant-yr-Arian; RADNOR: 150 at Gigrin Farm on 22 June and 200 here on 20 Oct.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans* BARCUD DU

Rare visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 25 previous records.

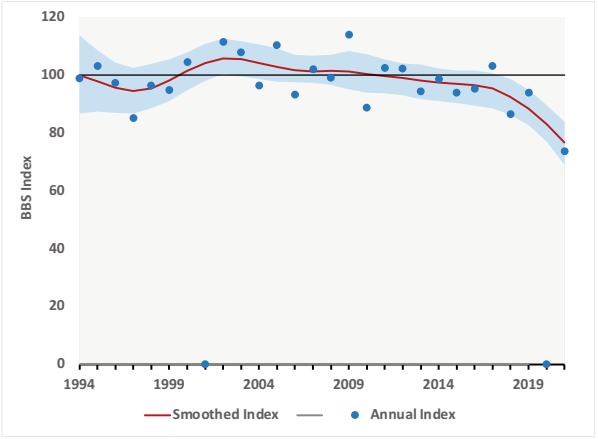
ANGLESEY: one over The Range, RSPB South Stack, on 26 April; PEMBROKE: juvenile over Skomer on 23 Aug.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* BWNCATH

Fairly common and widespread breeding resident (9850-13,500 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	6516	6841
% of BirdTrack lists	29%	29%

Breeding Bird Survey: Buzzard in Wales, 1994-2021



A significant (-22%) reduction in the Breeding Bird Survey trend since 2019 accelerates a decline evident since the turn of the century. It is now 15% below its 1995 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been falling very slowly since 2014, although with inter-annual variations.

Large counts: E.GLAMORGAN: 27 'worming' at City, Vale of Glamorgan, on 27 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Dryslwyn on 3 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 10 over Skomer on 16 Sept.; BRECON: 14 on an arable field near Llangorse on 2 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 10 at Llyn Hir on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 10 on Bardsey on 15 Oct.; 12 at Tregarth on 30 March.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* TYLLUAN WEN

Uncommon breeding resident in all counties (633-728 pairs). Population probably stable in the long term, but numbers vary considerably. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	109	128
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding, 451 young fledged (or were assumed to have done after ringing) from 136 nests visited (3.29 young/nest). GWENT: three pairs at Newport Wetlands Reserve, the highest ever; E.GLAMORGAN: two pairs bred and two others probably bred; GOWER: bred at nine sites in Neath Port Talbot, where 34 chicks were ringed (3.78/nest) and at two sites in the Swansea area where six chicks ringed (3.0/nest); CARMARTHEN: three successful broods; reported from six other locations; PEMBROKE: one breeding record; BRECON: three confirmed breeding pairs and possibly bred at a further eight sites; MONTGOMERY: 60 pairs fledged 201 young (3.45/nest, Montgomeryshire Barn Owl Group); 157 young fledged from 42 sites monitored (3.73/nest, Species Habitat Protection Group); MEIRIONNYDD: at least three breeding pairs; CAERNARFON: pair bred near Pwllheli; reported from seven other sites; ANGLESEY: present at three sites; DENBIGH: 37 young ringed at 17 nests (2.2 young/nest); FLINT: 16 young ringed at six nests (2.7 young/nest).

2019 GWENT: six nests, of which five were on the Caldicot Levels, (mean productivity 3.16/pair).

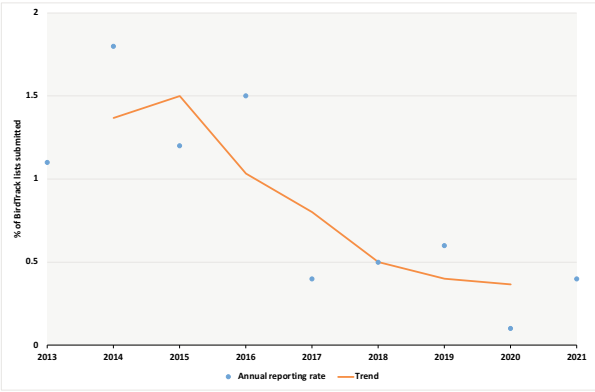
LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* TYLLUAN FACH

Introduced (Category C), localised and declining breeding resident (250-300 pairs).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	57	113
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The mean BirdTrack reporting rate fell by 74% between 2013-15 and 2019-21, illustrating how many parts of Wales have lost Little Owls. Records in bird reports came from 54 sites, but breeding was confirmed only on Ramsey, PEMBROKE, with probable breeding at six other sites.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Little Owl in Wales 2013-21



GWENT: probably bred at Wentwood; present at two other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Sker Farm; possibly bred between Marcross and Monkash; PEMBROKE: pair bred on Ramsey; BRECON: 1-2 present near Cradoc throughout the year; RADNOR: present at Llangunllo in Aug.; CAERNARFON: three territories on Bardsey (*cf*. five in 2020), although no juveniles were recorded, it is suspected that some fledged; ANGLESEY: probably bred at Cemlyn and Holyhead Mountain, and possibly at Trearddur Bay and Rhoscolyn; DENBIGH: probably bred at Darland Lane, Wrexham, and possibly at three other sites.

Non-breeding away from sites above, singles unless stated: GWENT: eight locations; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 locations; PEMBROKE: Gann est. on 4 March and Tregroes, near Fishguard, on 9 Aug.; CEREDIGION: Blaenceulan, near Talybont, on 12 Feb.; BRECON: regularly near Felinfach; one near Screthrog; RADNOR: Brilley West on 8 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: seven reports; ANGLESEY: Malltraeth on 24 Feb.; DENBIGH: three locations.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* TYLLUAN GORNIOG

Uncommon resident, perhaps c.100 breeding pairs, mainly in conifer woodland. RBBP: 11-13 pairs in 2020 Uncommon passage migrant in a broader suite of habitats. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	10	4
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: only one confirmed breeding record this year, plus one probable and 2-3 possible records. CEREDIGION: one chased a Nightjar at Cefn y Cnwc on 19 July; BRECON: probably bred near Tŷ Mawr Farm, Llangasty, and possibly at Craig Cwmdu, Brecon Beacons; MONTGOMERY: three young fledged at Cors Dyfi, where the nestcam recorded a nocturnal attack by a Long-eared Owl on a sleeping Osprey; DENBIGH: Lleweni Watermeadows on 14 June.

Non-breeding records were singles: CARMARTHEN: near Llanegwad on 13 Feb.; BRECON: roosted near Llangorse on 12 Jan. and 10-14 March; Llangorse Lake on 22 Oct.; DENBIGH: south of Pontfadog on 21 March.

2019 GWENT: one confirmed pair and a second territory in the north of the county, bringing Wales total to 11 records with breeding evidence for the year.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

Uncommon breeding resident. RBBP: 10-15 pairs in 2020. Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers to all counties. Wales Amber listed (Red prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	148	131
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

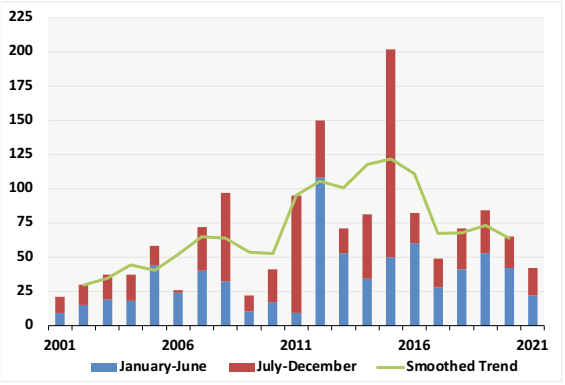
An owl's Atlantic journey

A female Short-eared Owl GPS-tagged at a breeding site close to Borgarfjörður, West Iceland (60km NE of Reykjavik), on 22 June 2021 and despite probably failing in her breeding attempt, she remained in her home range until mid-October. Leaving Iceland on 14 Oct., after 36 hours she was by Loch Broom, Wester Ross, in Scotland. She continued south, passing Telford, Shropshire, on 21 Oct. and then spending three weeks in the Elan Valley, RADNOR, until 15 Nov. The next transmission was from south Devon on 23 Nov., but then she returned to Wales, near Caldicot, GWENT, from 27 Nov. Transmissions in early Dec. suggested that she had stopped moving, and on 9th the data was used by local birdwatchers to find her headless corpse close to the tideline. Summarised from an article in the Gwent Ornithological Society newsletter.

Breeding season: PEMBROKE: three territories on Skomer but none on Ramsey; RADNOR: one south of Beulah on 28 May.

The BirdTrack reporting rate had been falling prior to autumn/winter lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, and so the 77% decline in the mean rate between 2013-15 and 2019-21 may be exaggerated. Bird reports contained the lowest number of records in the first winter period since 2011 and in the second winter period since 2013.

Non-breeding Short-eared Owls recorded in Wales, 2001-21 (sum of peak counts at each site per season, and all passage records on the islands)



Summary of non-breeding records for each county.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT		1	2							1		
Newport Wetlands					1		1	1	1	1	2	
E.GLAMORGAN		1	3		1					2	1	
Rhoose Point	2	2	2	2								1
GOWER			1									1
CARMARTHEN		1									1	
PEMBROKE		1									3	3
CEREDIGION	1	1			1	1	1				2	
BRECON			1	1								
RADNOR												1
MEIRIONNYDD		1		1	1					1		
CAERNARFON		1		2	1	1				4	1	1
ANGLESEY	1			1						2	1	1
RSPB Cors Ddyga	2		2									1
Aberffraw		5	1									
DENBIGH											1	
FLINT		1	1	1	2						2	3

2019 GWENT: the figures below replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

Monthly max.	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	5	8	6		2			1			4	3

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* TYLLUAN FRECH

Fairly common and widespread, but declining, breeding resident in all counties (2550-3800 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**557**	**581**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**2%**

The BirdTrack reporting rate has been slowly increasing since 2013, which is slightly surprising for a predominantly nocturnal species. Although gardens are unlikely to be their most important habitat, the peak reporting rate in the 2021 BTO Garden BirdWatch was 6.3% in September, the lowest maximum in any year since counts started in 1995.

Breeding season records, hugely under-recorded: GWENT: possibly bred at seven locations; E.GLAMORGAN: nine confirmed locations; GOWER: bred at two sites and probably at a further three; present at 25+ sites; CARMARTHEN: bred at four sites; PEMBROKE: six locations; RADNOR: bred at Cwmddu; CAERNARFON: bred in Bangor; DENBIGH: bred at three sites.

Short-eared Owl (Jeff Slocombe)

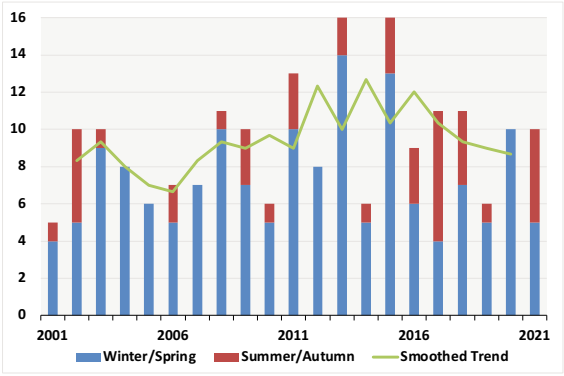
HOOPOE *Upupa epops* COPOG

Uncommon but regular passage migrant to Wales. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	9	53
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A typical number of records, equally split between spring and autumn, although the June records in CEREDIGION are interesting. All records were single birds: E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Farm on 15-23 Sept. and 4 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: Llwyncelyn Farm, St Clears, on 9 Sept.; Brechfa Forest on 28 Oct.; PEMBROKE: St Davids on 30 April; Manorbier on 4 May; Letterston on 10 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Ystumtuen on 17 and 30 June; Bronnant on 12-15 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Llanerchymedd on 24 April.

Hoopoes recorded in Wales, 2001-21



KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* GLAS Y DORLAN

Resident in lowland areas (445-970 breeding pairs). Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1013	893
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%

The UK indices for both the Breeding Bird Survey and the Waterways Breeding Bird Survey show long-term declines of around 30%, but there is no separate trend for Wales. The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales and the BirdTrack reporting rate suggest a stable population, but may not be very representative.

Breeding season: GWENT: probably bred on R. Usk at Llanfoist; E.GLAMORGAN: four confirmed and two probable

breeding locations; GOWER: bred on R. Neath at Aberdulais; PEMBROKE: bred at two sites; BRECON: three breeding records; MEIRIONNYDD: three breeding season records; CAERNARFON: five sites during the breeding season; DENBIGH: possibly bred at NT Erddig and Alyn Waters CP, and present at four other sites. FLINT: possibly bred on R. Elwy at St Asaph.

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* GWYBEDOG GWENYN

Scarce visitor from Europe. WBRC: 80 previous records.

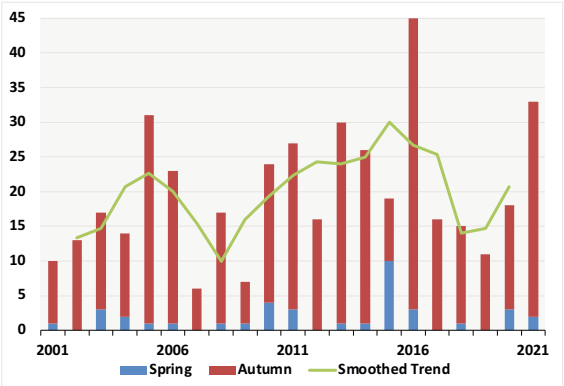
PEMBROKE: Porth Clais on 6 June.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* PENGAM

Uncommon but regular passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	22	60
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Wrynecks recorded in Wales, 2001-21



A minimum of 33 birds, thanks to a good number on both Skokholm and Bardsey, although it is difficult to judge how many individuals were involved. All singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Perthcelyn on 5 Sept.; GOWER: Hillend Campsite, Llangennith, on 4 Sept.; Southgate on 14 Sept.; Mewslade on 6 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 6 April; Skokholm on 28 Aug., two here on 31 Aug, then daily until 16 Sept., max. four on 2nd and 5th and three on 16th, and another on 3-4 Oct.; Skomer from 31 Aug. to 9 Sept.; Deer Park on 2 Sept.; St Davids Head on 3 and 9 Sept.; Newport on 3 Sept.; St Ishmaels on 8 Sept.; Ramsey on 9 Sept.; Dale Airfield on 11 Sept.; BRECON: Llangattock on 8 April; CAERNARFON: Pwllheli on 26 April; three on Bardsey on 25 Aug., one here on 28-29th, singles on 1, 2, 4 and 8 Sept., and three on 11th; Porth Meudwy on 10 Sept.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dryobates minor* CNOCELL FRAITH FACH

Rare breeding resident (105-320 pairs), principally distributed in the lowlands and along the main river valleys. RBBP: 17 territories in 2020. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	21	8
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Records from 14 sites in the breeding season (March-July), but only one nest confirmed. Single birds unless stated: GWENT: Broad Meend on 4 April; CARMARTHEN: four young fledged at Fwng Isaf, Cynghordy; PEMBROKE: Picton Pt on 17 April; CEREDIGION: two pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir; Llangwyryfon on 3 April; Cross Inn Forest on 2 June; BRECON: Talyllyn, Talgarth, Fennifach and Elan Village; MEIRIONNYDD: Broadwater area on 12 June; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: Pont Croesor/R. Dylif on 16 and 30 April, and 9 Aug.; CAERNARFON: drumming at Llys Onnen, Llandudno Junction, on 4 April; DENBIGH: two at Wenffrwd in the Dee Valley on 19 March; FLINT: drumming at Bagillt Bank on 7 March.

Single birds at other sites outside the breeding season: GOWER: Cwm Clydach on 5 Jan.; Dyffryn Woods on 5 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Llangunnor on 5 and 30 Jan.; Cynghordy on 9 Oct.; DENBIGH: NT Erddig on 2 Dec.; FLINT: two at Maeshafn on 22 Feb.

2019 GWENT: one north of Forest Coal Pit on 28 July.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (Andrew Turpin)

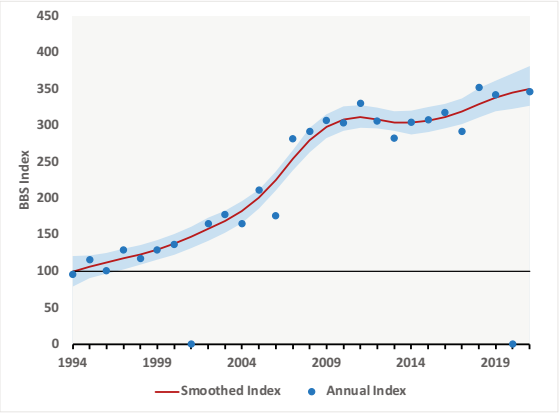
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* CNOCELL FRAITH FAWR

Fairly common breeding resident (21,500 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	4351	4378
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	20%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales increased by 225% during 1995-2020, reaching a new high. Increases in the BirdTrack and BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rates are also evident, although in the latter project the trend has been stable since 2017, and the maximum in 2021 (48.2% in June) was slightly below recent years.

Breeding Bird Survey: Great Spotted Woodpecker in Wales, 1994-2021



GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* CNOCELL WERDD

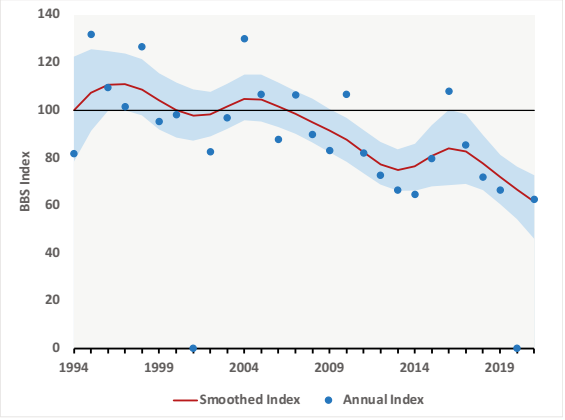
Uncommon breeding resident (3,350 pairs). Formerly more widespread, but declining in western counties, Montgomery and Radnor. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1540	1521
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	6%

The Breeding Bird Survey index reached a new low, 38% below the 1995 level. The BirdTrack reporting rate during the last eight years has ranged between 3.9% in 2014 and 6.9% in 2020.

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: seven confirmed, two probable and 47 possible breeding locations; GOWER: bred at four sites; CARMARTHEN: 21 locations; CAERNARFON: reported from 15+ sites during the breeding season, but fledglings seen only at Mynydd Nefyn.

Breeding Bird Survey: Greeen Woodpecker in Wales, 1994-2021



Single birds, unless stated, outside the breeding season, in counties where breeding is restricted or rare: PEMBROKE: seven records, including two at Bosherston on 1 March; CEREDIGION: six locations; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 locations; ANGLESEY: Newborough on 28 July; Moelfre on 30 Aug.

2019 GWENT: fledged juveniles at four sites in June/July.

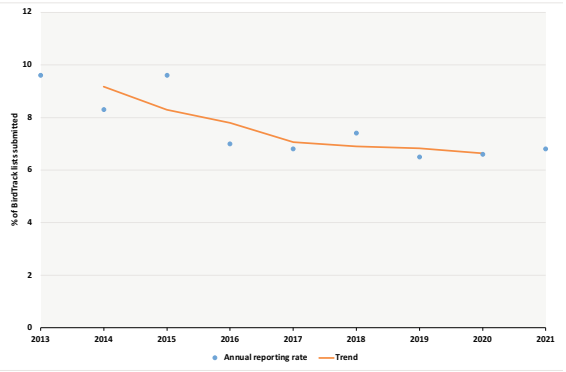
KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* CUDYLL COCH

Uncommon and declining resident (1750 breeding pairs). Partial and passage migrant to some counties in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1678	1819
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

The UK Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen by 40% since 1995, and the species is now too scarce for a trend to be generated for Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been stable over the last five years, but is doubtless well below what it would have been were data available for previous decades.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Kestrel in Wales 2013-21



Incomplete breeding information includes: E.GLAMORGAN: three confirmed, three probable and five possible breeding pairs; GOWER: bred at Devil's Truck and probably at five other sites; CARMARTHEN: four breeding season records; PEMBROKE: pairs at 13 possible breeding locations; CEREDIGION: 25 young fledged from six nestboxes monitored (4.17/nest); BRECON: two pairs bred at quarries in the Brecon Beacons and pairs probably bred at two other sites; RADNOR: breeding season records from four sites; MEIRIONNYDD: one pair bred, and probably or possibly bred at seven other locations; CAERNARFON: 20+ sites during the breeding season; ANGLESEY: bred at Malltraeth and Pt Lynas; DENBIGH: bred at Dolydd Ceiriog and probably at Fenn's & Whixall Moss; FLINT: bred beside Clwyd est. and probably at Hendy Ponds and Green Gate Farm, Bodelwyddan.

2019 GWENT: two confirmed breeding pairs, two probable and four possible.

Kestrel chicks (RSPCA Cymru).

Kestrel chooses a risky home

The most unusual nest site must be the rear of a turbine of a passenger aircraft being repaired at RAF Athan, E.GLAMORGAN. Two chicks were found inside the turbine cowling when the jet was moved into a hangar after being left on the runway for several months. They were rescued by the RSPCA and rehabilitated at Gower Wildlife Hospital.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* CUDYLL BACH

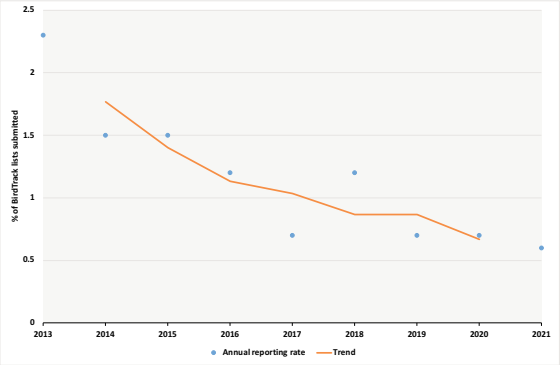
Rare breeding resident in the uplands - RBBP: 11-23 pairs in 2020. Elsewhere, an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	218	195
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

There is no information on the current size of the Merlin population in Wales, or elsewhere in the UK, but the BirdTrack reporting rate indicates that it is seen infrequently by birdwatchers, in or outside the breeding season.

Breeding season records: E.GLAMORGAN: one in potential habitat at Cwm Cadlan NNR on 11 July; CEREDIGION: one at Nant y Maen on 22 June; BRECON: pair fledged two young in the Brecon Beacons; pair fledged two young from a

BirdTrack reporting rate: Merlin in Wales 2013-21



forested area in the north of the county; MONTGOMERY: two birds at Hirnant Pass on 16 July; MEIRIONNYDD: at three nests monitored, 12 eggs laid, all hatched but only four fledged, all from one nest; DENBIGH: one at Aled Isaf Res. on 7 June; male at World's End on 22 June.

Summary of other records for each county.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2	1	2	2	1					1	2	2
E.GLAMORGAN	1	3	7	1	1			1	2	7	4	4
GOWER	1	1	2						1	2	3	3
CARMARTHEN		1								5	2	2
PEMBROKE		6	7	8	3				1	5	6	4
CEREDIGION	3	3	2	2				1	2	5	4	3
BRECON	2	1	1						2	1	1	5
RADNOR			1									
MONTGOMERY		1	1						1		1	
MEIRIONNYDD			1	2			4			3		3
CAERNARFON	1	1	2	3	1		1			5	2	2
Bardsey			1+	1+	1				2	4+		
ANGLESEY	2	1								3	1	2
DENBIGH	2	1	2	4	1				1	1	2	4
FLINT	1	1						1		2	3	1

2019 GWENT: the figures below replace those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019:

Monthly max.	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	5	1	3	4				6		11	11	4

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

Rare but increasing breeder (205 pairs). RBBP: 21-43 pairs in 2020. Uncommon passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	**2021**
No of BirdTrack records	**133**	**158**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

The BirdTrack reporting rate has remained very similar since 2013, under 0.5% of lists submitted. One at Teifi Marshes, PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION, on 23 March was exceptionally early.

Breeding evidence: E.GLAMORGAN: pair fledged three young in Vale of Glamorgan; GOWER: pair fledged two young at Cwm Nedd; CARMARTHEN: two juveniles with an adult at one site; CEREDIGION: two young fledged at one location; BRECON: presence at traditional breeding areas or suitable habitat suggested at least 13 pairs; MONTGOMERY: bred at Mochdre and probably bred at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; DENBIGH: bred at Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Moss, but not known which side of the border - 20 birds here on 17 May; FLINT: breeding suspected at one location.

Summary of other records for each county.

Monthly totals	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
GWENT		2	6	2	4	3	5	
E.GLAMORGAN		3	4	2	1	2	6	1
GOWER			1	1			1	
CARMARTHEN			3	4	1			
PEMBROKE	1	2	3	3	1	1	2	
CEREDIGION		3	2	3	1	1	2	
BRECON			7					1
RADNOR			1			1		
MONTGOMERY				1		1	3	
MEIRIONNYDD				2		1		
CAERNARFON				2		1	3	
ANGLESEY			1	2	1	1	2	
DENBIGH			4	8	4	7	2	
FLINT			5	5	3	5	3	

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT (provisional)	27 April	Newport		21 Sept.	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	8 April	Llantrisant Common		4 Oct.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	19 May	River Kenfig		1 Sept.	Scurlage
CARMARTHEN	12 May	location not provided		12 Oct.	Banc y Lord
PEMBROKE	**23 March**	**Teifi Marshes**		3 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	**23 March**	**Teifi Marshes**		5 Sept.	Cwmystwyth
BRECON	4 May	Llangasty		**13 Oct.**	**Llangasty**
MONTGOMERY	24 April	Dolydd Hafren		15 Sept.	Bacheldre and Llyn Hir
MEIRIONNYDD	18 June	Moel Fferna		13 Aug.	Ceinws
CAERNARFON	5 June	Foryd		4 Sept.	Y Ffor
ANGLESEY	16 May	RSPB Cors Ddyga		8 Sept.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	24 April	Bettisfield		15 Sept.	Bettisfield
FLINT	3 May	Broughton		5 Sept.	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh/Connah's Quay NR

2019 GWENT: Earliest and latest dates:

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT	26 April	Dingestow		2 Oct.	Newport Wetlands Reserve

Six nests were monitored, with productivity of 2.4 young/nest, and two other possible nesting attempts.

Other records:

Monthly totals	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
2019 GWENT	2	6	8	5	6	6	3

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* HEBOG TRAMOR

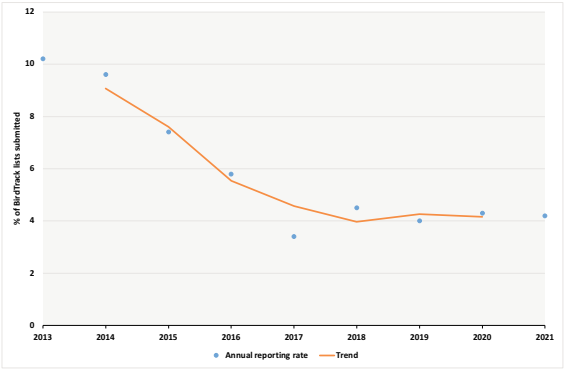
Rare but declining breeder (279 territories in 2014). RBBP: 64-93 pairs in 2020, but monitoring affected by travel restrictions. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**1270**	**1229**
% of BirdTrack lists	**4%**	**4%**

The decline in known breeding pairs is reflected in the encounter rate by users of BirdTrack, with the reporting rate down 54% between 2013-15 and 2019-21. Breeding productivity was very poor: 73 chicks fledged from 78 territories occupied (0.94 young/nest, *cf*. 1.6 in 2020 and 1.55 in 2019).

Breeding information from South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group and bird reports (not complete surveys except

BirdTrack reporting rate: Peregrine in Wales 2013-21



Pembrokeshire): E.GLAMORGAN: 29 occupied territories, with successful breeding at 16 and min. 35 fledged (1.2 young/occupied territory); GOWER: pair bred on Gower coast; three family parties in the Swansea area; CARMARTHEN: bred at three sites, six chicks fledged from two (2.0 young/territory); two territories not occupied; PEMBROKE: min. 33 occupied territories (31 coastal), at which 17 pairs attempted to breed, min. 25 young fledged (0.76 young/territory); BRECON: 13 occupied territories, of these five pairs did not breed (or failed), three held a single adult and the remaining five pairs bred but fledged only seven chicks (0.53/territory); MONTGOMERY: stable breeding population of 15 pairs; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at two inland sites and possibly at two other inland sites; CAERNARFON: bred at seven locations (including one on Bardsey), fledged young seen near four of these; five other likely breeding locations; ANGLESEY: up to nine breeding pairs.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* CIGYDD CEFNGOCH

Scarce passage migrant from mainland Europe. Former breeder, last in 2006. WBRC: 164 records since 1967.

CEREDIGION: 1CY at Llanon on 30 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 1CY at Bwlchtocyn on 21 Nov., only the fourth Welsh record in that month, and the latest ever arrival (though one in E.Glamorgan in 2019 that was found on 15 Nov. remained until 29th).

DAURIAN/TURKESTAN SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides* CIGYDD DAWRIA/TYRCESTAN

Very rare visitor from Asia. BBRC: eight previous records.

PEMBROKE: 1CY at Marloes Sands on 28-30 Nov., the latest arrival of any in Wales.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius senator* CIGYDD GLAS

Rare visitor from Mediterranean, east to Central Asia. BBRC: 10 previous records.

PEMBROKE: adult male on Skomer on 31 May.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* CIGYDD MAWR

Uncommon but annual winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

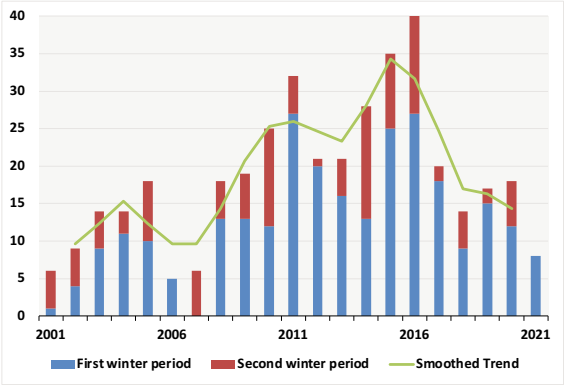
	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	92	65
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

BirdTrack records are down by nearly 30%, and the total number of birds recorded this year was the lowest since 2007, but will have been affected by COVID travel restrictions since birds are generally found in remote areas during late winter. All were single birds.

First winter period/spring passage: E.GLAMORGAN: Craig-y-llyn on 11-12 April; CARMARTHEN: Brechfa Forest from 19 Oct. 2020 to 2 April; Cynnant, Cynghordy, on 1 Jan.; CEREDIGION: Esgair Ffrwd on 26 Feb.; BRECON: Usk Res. on 5 April; RADNOR: Llandrindod Wells on 6 Jan.; David's Well on 21 Feb. possibly same as at Llanbadarn Fynydd on 22nd.

Second winter period: CARMARTHEN: Court Wood, Pembrey, on 16 Dec.

Great Grey Shrikes recorded in Wales, 2001-21



WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* CIGYDD PENGOCH

Scarce migrant from southern Europe. WBRC: 127 previous records.

CARMARTHEN: adult at Mynydd Ystyfflau-carn on 4 June was the second county record; PEMBROKE: male on Skomer on 1 June; CEREDIGION: female at Cors Caron on 2-3 June; CAERNARFON: 1CY male on Bardsey on 14-15 May.

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus* FIREO LLYGATGOCH

Rare visitor from North America. BBRC: seven previous records

Two in a year is unprecedented. Although these were only a few miles and days apart, they were accepted as different individuals. CAERNARFON: 1CY on Bardsey on 2-4 Oct.; 1CY at Porth Meudwy on 6-10 Oct.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* EURYN

Scarce migrant from southern Europe, usually as a spring overshoot. WBRC: 220 previous records.

PEMBROKE: male at St Davids Airfield on 29 May.

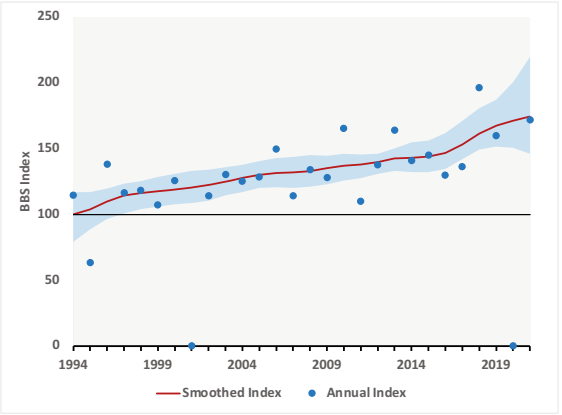
JAY *Garrulus glandarius* SGRECH Y COED

Fairly common and widespread resident (35,500 territories), though scarce in west Llŷn and much of Anglesey. Autumn/winter influxes from the east occur irregularly. Wales Green listed.

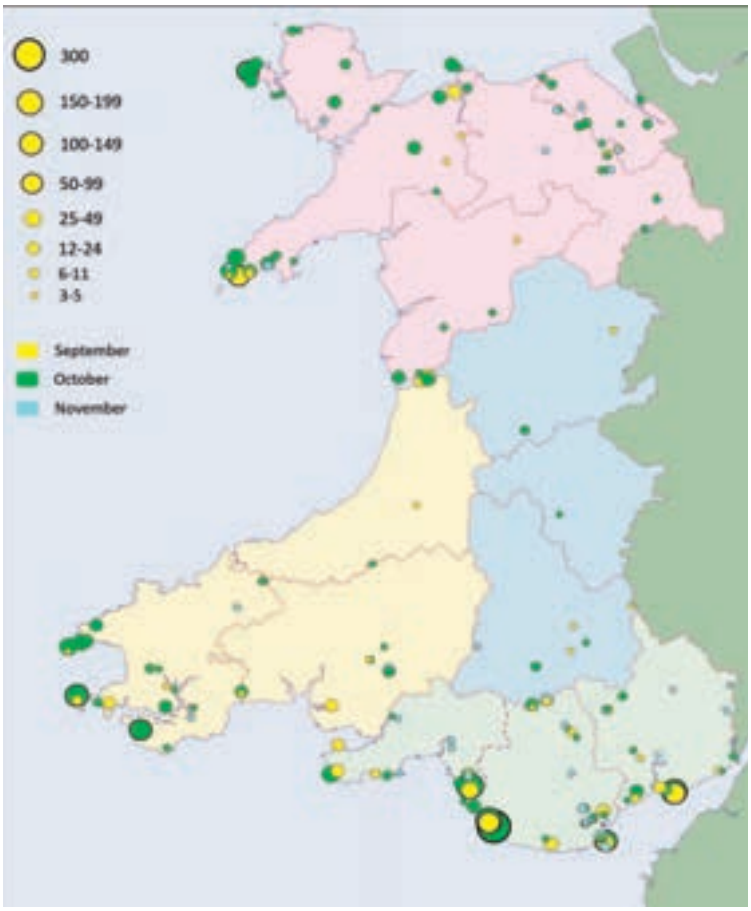
	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2997	3419
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	15%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached another new high in 2021, 65% above its 1995 level. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been more steady, with the 2021 figure well within the range of the years since 2013.

Breeding Bird Survey: Jay in Wales, 1994-2021



Map of Jay records in autumn 2021 (updated from Hughes 2022)



Record Jay movements across Wales

Autumn 2021 saw the largest and most widespread movement of Jays ever recorded in Wales, including a site day record of 300 at Dunraven, E.GLAMORGAN, that was 50% higher than the Welsh record that has stood since 1983. The evidence suggests that the majority originated from within Wales, but birds also moved from northwest and central/southern England. The unprecedented scale of the movement was triggered by a widespread failure of the acorn crop across Britain, probably due to the abundance of acorns the previous autumn and clement weather resulting in good overwinter survival and spring breeding. The arrivals on the north and especially the south coast lasted just three weeks from mid-September into October. Birds aggregated at headlands, islands and bays, failed to find abundant acorns and dispersed quickly across the countryside, including gardens for supplementary food. No Jays were reported flying out to sea and none was seen on Bardsey or Skokholm. The nationwide influx was evident in the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate of 32.4% in November, double the November average of 14.5% in the previous five years, and it remained high in December, occurring in 29.9% of gardens. Summary based on Hughes (2022).

Counts ≥10: GWENT: 12 at Blackwood on 17 April; 13 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 25 Sept. and 76 here on 26th; 102 at Newport Wetlands Reserve and 22 at Marshfield on 3 Oct.; 21 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 5 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 13 at Kenfig Pool on 13 Sept.; 16 at Lavernock Pt on 15 Sept.; 24 at Kenfig Pool on 16 Sept.; 44 at Lavernock Pt on 18 Sept.; 13 at Kenfig Pool on 21 Sept.; 14 at Llanishen and Lisvane Res. and 10 at Abercwmboi Lake on 24 Sept.; 50 at Southerndown, 43 at Lavernock Pt and 13 at East Aberthaw on 26 Sept.; 40+ at Southerndown on 29 Sept.; 10 at Lavernock Pt on 2 Oct.; 161 at Kenfig Pool and 100 at Southerndown on 4 Oct.; 17 at Porthcawl on 5 Oct.; 300 at Temple Bay, Dunraven, and 56 at Kenfig Pool on 6 Oct.; 28 at Kenfig Pool on 7 Oct.; 10 at Lavernock Pt on 8 Oct. and 32 on 10th; 18 at Cwm Cadlan NNR on 10 Oct.; 18 at Lavernock Pt on 11 Oct.; 11 at Kenfig Pool on 14 Oct.; 20 at Lavernock Pt on 16 Oct., 15 here on 23rd, 55 on 26th and 29 on 30th; 20 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 4 Nov. and 10 here on 7th; 12 at Garwnant on 25 Nov.; GOWER: 15 at Middleton on 20 Sept.; 15 at The Vile on 22 Sept.; 14 at Whiteford Pt on 29 Sept.; 41 at Mewslade on 11 Oct.; 11 at Pwll du on 13 Oct.; 11 at Margam on 16 Oct.; 12 at Margam Park on 17 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 14 over Kidwelly on 25 Sept.; 13 at Llyn Llech Owain on 15 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 13 at the Gann est. on 20 Sept. and 17 here on 24th; 21 at Penberi Res on 1 Oct.; 20 at Westfield Pill on 4 Oct.; 101 on Skomer, 90 at Castlemartin Corse, 45 at Treginnis, 38 on Ramsey and 16 at Penberi Res. on 6 Oct.; 23 at Porth Clais on 7 Oct.; 15 at Llanteg on 8 Oct.; 10 at Haverfordwest on 13 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 18 at Cwm Berwyn on 18 Feb.; 43 at Glandyfi and 23 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 25 Sept.; 18 at Glandyfi on 4 Oct.; BRECON: 12 at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 8 Jan. and 10 here on 8 March; 12 at Libanus on 25 Sept; MEIRIONNYDD: 17 at Aberdyfi on 15 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 14 at Glan Faenol on 1 Jan.; 10 in Daron valley on 14 Sept.; 12 at Conwy Mountain on 25 Sept.; 23 at Aberdaron on 2 Oct.; 20 at Pen-y-cil on 3 Oct.; 30 at Porth Oer on 6 Oct.; 15 at the Great Orme on 8 Oct.; 70 at Porth Meudwy, 36 at Mynydd Mawr, 16 at Penmaenmawr and 12 at the Great Orme on 9 Oct.; 15 at the Great Orme and 14 at Aberdaron on 10 Oct.; 23 in Ogwen Valley and 20 at Mynydd Mawr on 16 Oct., and 11 here on 25th and 30th; ANGLESEY: 17 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 5 Oct.; 11 at RSPB South Stack on 4 Oct. and 72 here on 10th; 10 at Mynydd Bodafon on 11 Oct.; 11 at

RSPB South Stack on 25 Oct.; DENBIGH: 10 at Penycloddiau on 16 Oct.; FLINT: 11 at Ewloe on 16 Oct.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* PIODEN

Fairly common and widespread resident (79,500 territories). Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	11060	11266
% of BirdTrack lists	55%	53%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 27% below the 1995 baseline, but the rate of decline evident since the turn of the century appears to have slowed. No trend is evident in the reporting rate or numbers in the BTO Garden BirdWatch, however. The 2021 BirdTrack reporting rate was below the 2013-20 mean. On Bardsey, CAERNARFON, eight pairs raised 14 young, (*cf*. eight pairs and 23 young in 2020), 27% lower than the 10-year mean, and the fifth consecutive year in which the population has fallen.

Breeding Bird Survey: Magpie in Wales, 1994-2021

Counts ≥20: GWENT: 28 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 21 Sept.; 22 at Peterstone Gout on 6 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 31 in Dare Valley CP on 1 Jan.; 30 near Cardiff Airport on 28 Jan.; 32 at Hailey Park, Cardiff, on 11 Feb.; 32 at Lavernock Pt on 10 Oct.; 31 roosted at Whitchurch on 15 Dec.; 30 roosted at Kenfig NNR on 26 Dec.; GOWER: 34 at Morriston on 4 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 30 at Cashfield on 7 Jan.; 27 at Teifi Marshes on 26 Feb.; BRECON: 28 at Libanus on 6 Feb.; 22 at WTSWW Y Byddwn on 22 Feb.; CAERNARFON: max. 15-38 on Bardsey between March and Nov., and 66 in Oct.; ANGLESEY: 30 roosted at Llangefni on 10 Oct.

2019 GWENT: at least 30 at Parc Nant-y-Waun, Brynmawr, and 21 at Newport Wetlands Reserve Saltmarsh, but no dates provided.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* BRAN GOESGOCH

Uncommon resident, mainly on cliff coasts of the western seaboard (252-278 pairs in 2014). RBBP: 233-258 pairs in 2020. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	824	1342
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	5%

Breeding season: in PEMBROKE the numbers of pairs considered to have eggs and those with young was higher than in 2020, but nest productivity was close to the long-term average and well down on the record number in 2020. In North and Mid-Wales, following two consecutive seasons of high juvenile survival, this was a more normal season, with lots of nest-failures. Some were due to gales in early and late May, washing out nests in low sea-caves while others probably fell victim to a wet May, either causing hatchlings to chill in wet nests or adults struggling to brood or feed young. The mean number of young/brood ringed was 2.9 (*cf*. mean of 3.0 in 2011-20). There followed reasonably good juvenile survival, in another benign, cool and damp summer.

Ringing: although there were no exceptional distance movements, 2021 saw a male on ANGLESEY (EY80630) that hatched in 1998 raise a brood of two. This brings it very close to the longevity record of 23 years held by a CEREDIGION female (ES27383) that hatched in 1996 and raised a brood of three in 2019.

	Occupied territories	*Nests*	*Nests from which young fledged*	*Min. no of young fledged*	*Young fledged/ successful nest*
GOWER		5 nests, four successful			
PEMBROKE	87	72	59	148	2.5

E.GLAMORGAN: among the small population along the Heritage Coast, one pair with five young on 19 June; CARMARTHEN: two at Pendine on 18 May; two at Marros Mountain on 4 June.

Monitoring by the Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, with additional data from Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory:

	Nests[1]	*Broods ringed*	*Young ringed*	*Young/brood*
CEREDIGION	17-29	6	14	2.8
MEIRIONNYDD	10-11	3	10	3.3
CAERNARFON	91-98	30	93	3.1
ANGLESEY	38-40	17	45	2.6
DENBIGH	2	1	3	3.0

[1]. Range shows min. (confirmed and probable pairs) to max. (with possible breeding pairs added).

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate fell by 55% between 2013-15 and 2019-21, although the 2020 rate was almost certainly affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions. In PEMBROKE an estimated 118 non-breeders were present based on flock counts between late March and mid-May. A roost of 90-95 near Aberdaron, CAERNARFON, in February is the largest recorded in Wales. In late summer 183 birds were counted at 15 roost sites in PEMBROKE between 27 August and 8 September, the highest total since coordinated counts started in 2014.

Notable counts during Jan. to April. GOWER: 22 at Rhossili on 31 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: max. four at Telpyn Pt on 28 March; PEMBROKE: between late March and mid-May: 30 on Strumble peninsula, 24 on Ramsey and 35 on Castlemartin; CEREDIGION: 21 at Aberporth on 19 March; 25 near Llangrannog on 28 March; 29 at Ynys Lochtyn on 17 April; CAERNARFON: 90-95 roosted near Aberdaron on 16 Feb.; max. 67 at Mynydd Mawr on 2 March; 56 around Mynydd y Gwyddel and St Mary's Well on 17 March; 50 at Uwchmynydd on 17 April; ANGLESEY: 36 at Llyn Traffwll on 11 Feb.; FLINT: one at Prestatyn on 18 March.

Max. monthly counts on Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Bardsey	23	21	28	28	30	35	37	53

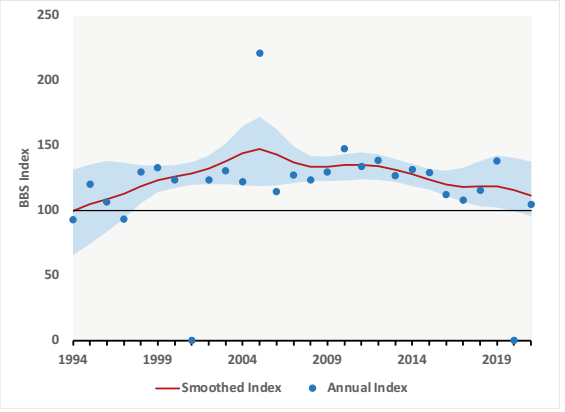
Notable counts during July to Dec.: E.GLAMORGAN: max. 11 along the Heritage Coast on 4 Aug. and 12 Sept., and eight here on 21 Nov.; GOWER: 32 at Rhossili on 28 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: two between Dolwen and Gilman Pt on 6 Aug.; two at Telpyn Pt on 10 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 50 at Castlemartin West Range in Aug.; 183 at 15 roosts included 42 on Ramsey on 2 Sept. and 30 on Strumble Peninsula on 8th; max. 35 on Skokholm on 9 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 48 at Mwnt on 20 July; 26 at Mynachdy'r Graig on 14 Sept.; 16 at Morfa Bychan on 8 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 42 roosted at Craig yr Aderyn on 24 Sept.; CAERNARFON: *c.*40 on Conwy Mountain on 2 July; max. 65 at Mynydd Mawr on 10 July; up to 45 at Moel Cynghorion on 21 July; 56 near Waunfawr on 5 Sept.; 58 at Braich y Pwll on 14 Sept.; 60 at Carreg Fawr, Llanfairfechan, on 11 Sept.; 29 on the Great Orme on 17 Sept.; ANGLESEY: max. 35 at RSPB South Stack on 16 July; 26 at RAF Valley on 21 Oct.

JACKDAW *Coloeus monedula* JAC-Y-DO

Fairly common and widespread resident (155,000 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	10381	10575
% of BirdTrack lists	52%	50%

Breeding Bird Survey: Jackdaw in Wales, 1994-2021



The 15-year decline in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales continues, although it remains 10% above the 1995 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate is also below the 2013-20 mean.

Max. monthly counts from sites holding 300 or more at least once: GWENT: 300 at Pant-y-Goitre on 1 May; 500 at Brynmawr on 4 July; 400 at Peterstone Gout on 26 Aug.; 300 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 16 Oct.; 350 at Caerleon on 21 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 13 counts ≥ 500 included 1100 at Pant-yr-Awel on 16 Jan., 1000 here on 18 Jan. and 1100 on 2 Feb.; 870 at Newton Beach on 8 Jan.; 966 at Kenfig NNR on 12-14 Oct.; GOWER: regular

pre-roost flocks of up to 1400 over Briton Ferry in both winter periods and 500 over Brunel Dock on 30 June; 630 at Morriston on 28 June; 600 at Llansamlet on 7 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 500 over Sandy WP on 2 July; pre-roost of 8000 at Penclacwydd on 11 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 500 at Castlemartin Corse on 3 Feb.; 700 at Haverfordwest on 13 Sept.; 1000 on Gann est. on 26 Oct. and 18 Nov.; 700 at Lydstep on 19 Oct.; 500 at Angle Bay on 27 Oct.; BRECON: 500 over Talgarth on 26 June; MONTGOMERY: 250 roosted at Machynlleth on 19 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 300 at Pentir on 10 Jan. and 450 here on 30th; 320 at Bangor on 22 Aug.; 1000 at Mynydd Mawr and Aberdaron on 16 Oct. and 325 here on 25th; DENBIGH: 300 at Holt on 18 Feb.; FLINT: 500 roosted at Rhuddlan on 15 Jan., 380 here on 11 Feb. and 300 on 24 March; 500 at Broughton CP on 21 June.

2019 GWENT: 700 at Parc Bryn Bach on 19 Nov.; 3000 at Great Traston Meadows, Newport, on 24 Dec.

***C. m. monedula* (Jackdaw / Jac-y-do Llychlyn)**
Birds showing features of the Nordic form: GOWER: Margam Park on 19 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Llandudno on 21 Feb. The WBRC is not certain whether such records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether their plumage characteristics are within the normal variation of British Jackdaws.

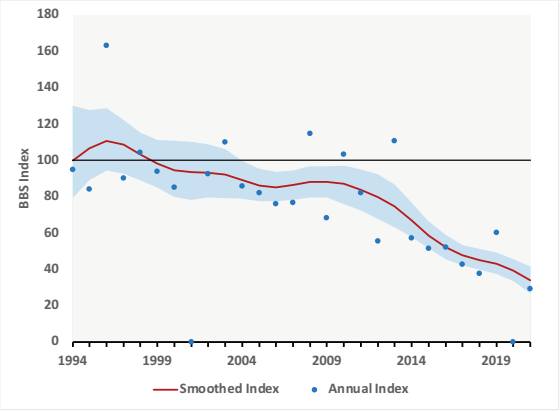
ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* YDFRAN

Fairly common resident, breeding mainly below 300m (35,500 pairs). The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2590	2687
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	12%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2021 was 63% below its 1995 level, among the greatest decline of any species. Occurrence of Rooks in gardens has also declined, based on the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate. By contrast, the BirdTrack reporting rate remains above the 2013-20 average.

Breeding Bird Survey: Rook in Wales, 1994-2021



Breeding: GWENT: 119 AON at five rookeries; E.GLAMORGAN: 1009 AON at 39 rookeries; GOWER: 523 AON at 35 rookeries (*cf*. 539 in 2019); PEMBROKE: 169 AON at Llanunwas, Solva, was the largest rookery counted; BRECON: 679 AON at 29 rookeries; RADNOR: 71 AON at two sites, the largest being 45 at Maesgwyn Farm, Black Mountain; MEIRIONNYDD: 123 AON at three rookeries, the largest being 105 at Fron Goch, Bala; CAERNARFON: 96 AON at six rookeries; DENBIGH: 254 AON at 13 rookeries, largest being 48 at Llansannan; FLINT: 51 AON at four rookeries, the largest contained 20 at Rhuddlan and Rhuallt.

Counts ≥100 away from rookeries: PEMBROKE: 200 at Slade Lane, Haverfordwest, on 2 Feb.; 300 at Broad Haven in Nov.; 200 at Dale Airfield on 17 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 100 at Moel-y-Garth, near Guilsfield, on 30 May; MEIRIONNYDD: 120 at Penllyn on 24 June; ANGLESEY: 400 roosted at Llanddyfnan estate on 1 Jan.; DENBIGH: 100 at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 16 Jan.; 150 at Wrexham on 17 Feb.; FLINT: 180 at Moel Arthur on 21 June.

2019 GWENT: 100 AON at nine rookeries, the largest being 20 at Nash.

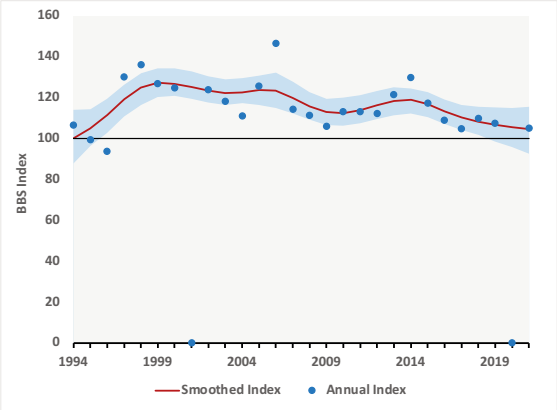
CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* BRAN DYDDYN

Abundant and widespread resident (160,000 territories). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	13725	14691
% of BirdTrack lists	68%	68%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales showed a 10% decline during 2015-20, but remains just above its 1995 baseline. It is the second most ubiquitous species on BirdTrack lists, although the reporting rate in the last couple of years is slightly below the mean. The only site with

Breeding Bird Survey: Carrion Crow in Wales, 1994-2021



comparable breeding information is Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where eight pairs nested, one more than in 2020. A minimum of 11 young fledged *(cf.* 15 in 2020).

Counts ≥100: GWENT: 105 at Osbaston on 25 March; 100 at Peterstone Gout on 26 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 150 at Newton Beach on 5 Jan.; 100 at Pant-yr-Awel on 17 Jan.; 100 at Craig-y-Parcau on 9 Feb.; 118 at Kenfig NNR on 13 Oct.; 100 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 14 Nov.; GOWER: 140 roosted at Oxwich on 16 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: 193 at Kidwelly Quay on 23 July and 148 here on 13 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 100 between Rushmoor and Lawrenny Quay on 2 Jan.; 200 at Landshipping on 14 Jan.; 100 at Sprinkle Pill on 22 Aug.; 100 by Gann est. on 26 Oct.; BRECON: 175 near Talyllyn on 5 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: 120 at Glandyfi on 12 Jan.; 100 at Dyffryn Ardudwy on 3 Feb.; FLINT: 110 at Connah's Quay NR on 18 Oct. and 120 on 30th.

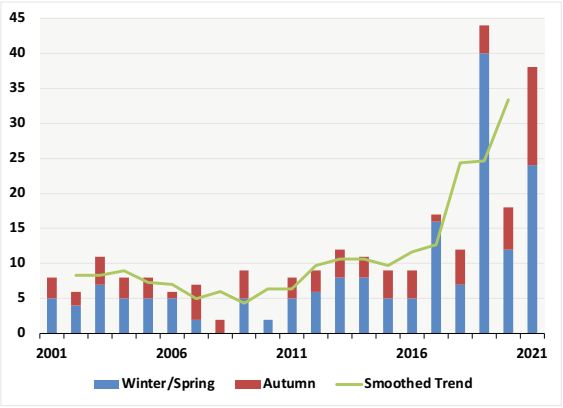
HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* BRAN LWYD

Uncommon and irregular wanderer to Wales, presumed from Ireland, and mainly to west coast in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	180	243
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Were it not for lockdown in the first winter period, numbers may have matched the 2019 total, although it is difficult to account for mobility within and between counties. It is interesting to note how many were here through the breeding season.

Hooded Crows recorded in Wales, based on county max. in each season 2001-21



Single birds unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Sigingstone, near Cowbridge, on 5 May; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 2 March and 19-29 April, and presumed same at Carregwasted Pt on 29th; Pencarnan Camp on 6 March, 7 April and 3 May; Carnedd Lleithr on 6 May; Fishguard Bay Resort on 17 May; Skokholm on 30 May; Gann est. from 27 Oct. to 31 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 6 May; MEIRIONNYDD: Dyffryn Ardudwy on 20 and 31 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Glanwydden on 18 Feb.; Bwlch y Ddeufaen on 31 March and 6 April; Great Orme on 31 March; Bardsey on 30 March and on two dates in April, two on 28 April, and singles here on 12 and 27 June, 24 and 27 Aug., 10 and 15 Oct.; Bychestyn on 29 May; two at Uwchmynydd on 5 July and one here on 25 Oct.; Pen-y-cil on 26 July; Aberdaron on 25 Oct.; ANGLESEY: reported throughout the year from Holyhead/RSPB South Stack (max. four on 26 March and 24 Sept.) and Cemlyn/Hen Borth (max. two on 22-23 May); Amlwch Port on 1 Jan.; Ynys Llanddwyn/Newborough on several dates in May; Alaw est. from 25 Nov. to 16 Dec.; FLINT: Clwyd est. from 24 June to 1 Sept.

Hooded X Carrion Crow hybrid

CAERNARFON: one at Foryd/Dinas Dinlle on 11 and 19 April, and 11 May; two at Aber Ogwen on 10 July; one at Bangor on 21 Sept.

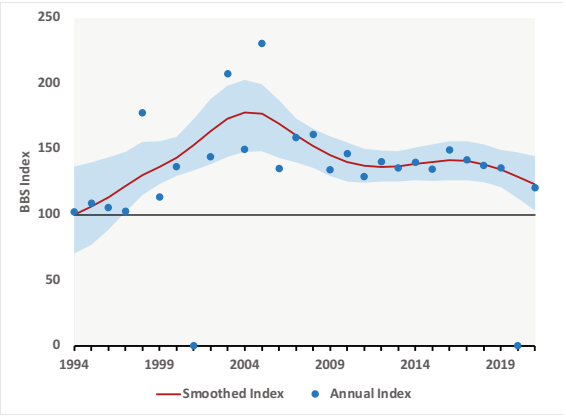
RAVEN *Corvus corax* CIGFRAN

Uncommon but widespread resident (2150 pairs). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	4794	4972
% of BirdTrack lists	22%	21%

Following a very successful population recovery from historic persecution during the second half of the 20th century, numbers have fallen in recent years. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 31% below its peak, but remains 21% above the 1995 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate has also been falling slowly.

Breeding Bird Survey: Raven in Wales, 1994-2021



Roost counts (monthly max.) at Blaencanaid, E.GLAMORGAN

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blaencanaid	73	31	21	56	121	107	266	171	82	56	59	88

Counts ≥10: GWENT: 39 at Aberbeeg on 9 March; 10 at Blackwood on 13 March; 18 at Abertillery on 21 July; 15 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 16 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 at Abernant on 17 Jan.; 12 at Newton Beach on 7 Nov.; 10 along R. Ogmore by Norton on 29 Nov.; 30 at Norton Wood on 18 Dec.; GOWER: 80 at Hawdref Fawr Farm on 14 April; 30 at Foel Fynyddau on 17 April; 37 at Mynydd Marchwyel on 4 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 80 on Skomer on 14 Sept.; 12 at Dale Airfield on 22 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 39 at Cors Caron on 21 March; BRECON: 25 roosted at Talgarth on 7 Jan.; 10 near Capel-y-ffin on 11 Sept.; 35 over Pen Allt-mawr on 16 Sept.; 13 over Hay Bluff on 23 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 38 at Cefn Coch on 29 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 10 at Foryd on 24 March; 15 at Pentir on 1 March; 24 on Moel Faban on 9 Jan.; 14 on Bardsey on 17 March and max. 13 here in Aug. and Oct.; FLINT: 10 at Moel Arthur on 11 Aug. and 13 here on 2 Nov.; 12 by Clwyd est. on 3 Nov.; 16 at White Sands on 30 Dec.

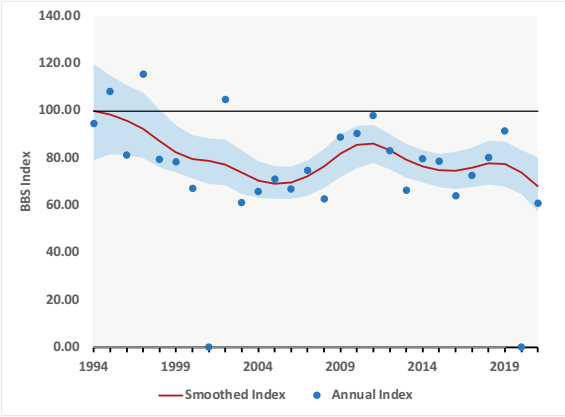
COAL TIT *Periparus ater* TITW PENDDU

Fairly common and widespread resident (75,000 territories), most numerous in conifer woodlands. Rare passage migrant. Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	4239	3768
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	17%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales hit a new low in 2021, 25% below the 1995 baseline, triggering its addition to the Amber list of Birds of Conservation Concern Wales. The declining trend is similar to Goldcrest, but very different to Siskin, with which it shares woodland breeding habitat. The BirdTrack reporting rate shows no comparable trend, although it fell back from a sharp increase in 2020.

Breeding Bird Survey: Coal Tit in Wales, 1994-2021



Counts ≥10: GWENT: 12 at Chepstow Park Wood on 31 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Wern Ddu on 25 Feb.; 10 at Coed-y-Wenallt on 26 Feb.; 20 at Llandaff on 26 Feb.; 13 at Llanwonno on 21 March and 17 here on 17 Aug.; 18 at Barry Sidings CP on 31 March and 16 April, and 10 here on 15 June; 12 at Craig yr Aber on 14 Aug.; 10 at Garwnant on 24 Nov.; BRECON: 35 feeding on fallen Norway Spruce cones in Mynydd Du Forest on 31 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 32 in Corris area on 31 Oct.; FLINT: 10 at Penycloddiau on 16 May.

2019 GWENT: 60 in a flock of 80 tits at Wentwood on 18 Jan.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* TITW'R WERN

Uncommon and localised resident (4850 territories), probably declining throughout Wales and absent from large parts of the north and west. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	249	251
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

The proportion of BirdTrack lists including Marsh Tit fell slightly in 2021, but has been consistently between 0.9 and 1.3% of lists since 2013.

Breeding season (mid-April to June), individuals unless stated: GWENT: three at Hafod; singles at Monmouth and Slade Wood; E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Casehill Wood and Parc Slip NR, and 1-2 at Cogan Wood in Cosmeston Lakes CP throughout year (four here on 16 Dec.); GOWER: bred at Mill Wood; probably bred at Oxwich Marsh; present at Bishopston Valley and Clyne Woods, and Parc le Breos and Gelli Hir Woods, where two seen later in year; CARMARTHEN: five fledged from a nest at Allt Rhyd y Groes; one at Dinas on 23 April; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from three locations; CEREDIGION: one at Cors Caron (two on 25 Feb.); singles at Nant Clywedog Ganol and Trawsgoed; BRECON: adult fed fledged young at Llangasty on 19 May; nests with young at Llanwrthwl and Libanus; family party at Penpont estate on 16 June; RADNOR: singles at Llandrindod Lake and RWT Gilfach; MONTGOMERY: bred at MWT Dolforwyn Woods and MWT Dyfnant Meadows; one at MWT Cors Dyfi; DENBIGH: present at Fenn's, Whixhall and Bettisfield Moss NNR, Glyn Arthur, Farndon and Rhewl; FLINT: one at Pantymwyn.

Outside breeding season elsewhere or away from suitable breeding habitat, all single birds unless stated: GWENT: 11 sites including three at Craig y Cilau NNR on 17 March and two at Llanishen on 15 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: Coed-y-Wenallt on 27 Jan.; two at Cwm George on 1 March; Wenvoe Quarry on 28 March; two throughout March at Pant-yr-Awel; Lavernock Pt on 30 Oct.; GOWER: 10 sites including two at Parkmill, Ilston Valley and High Pennard; CARMARTHEN: 11 sites, including four at Upper Lliedi Res. on 12 Jan., three at Llangunnor on 30 Jan. and two pairs at Morfa Bychan on 20 March; PEMBROKE: Ramsey on 22 June was the first record for the island; CEREDIGION: two at Llanfair Clydogau in Jan./Feb.; two at Llyn Blaenmelindwr on 1 Aug.; Cwm Cou on 25 Dec.; BRECON: 11 sites, including up to three at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl; RADNOR: Burfa Bog in March; Llan Bwch-llyn in Aug. and Nov.; Black Hill in Aug; Llangunllo in Aug.; MONTGOMERY: Moel-y-Garth in most months; MEIRIONNYDD: Bettws Gwerfil Goch on 2 April; DENBIGH: six sites including three at NT Erddig on 30 Jan., two at Sontley in Jan. and two at Cae-hir in Nov.; FLINT: Loggerheads CP in March, Nov. and Dec.; two at Mold on 15 Feb. and 19 March; two at Ysceifiog Res. on 24 July and one here on 11 Sept.

2019 GWENT: two confirmed pairs, one probable and eight possible. 77% of all records during the year were from the Wye Valley (Chepstow-Monmouth) and the lower Monnow Valley near Osbaston.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus* TITW'R HELYG

Uncommon, localised and declining resident (estimated 1195 pairs in 2019-20), mostly in west and central Wales. RBBP: 124 pairs in 2020. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	130	96
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season (March-June), singles unless stated: GWENT: Wentwood East; E.GLAMORGAN: pair in Hirwaun and Cwm Cadlan NNR; singing birds at Pant-yr-Awel, Nelson Wern, Llwyn-on Res., Penmoellallt and Garwnant (three here on 25 Nov.); non-vocal singles at Sycamore Grove, Hirwaun WTW and Penderyn Res.; GOWER: two at Bishopston Valley on 24 April; CARMARTHEN: Ffrwd Fen in Feb. and April; juv. at Cynghordy on 20 June; singing birds at Marros and Llangadog; two at Llyn Llech Owain; Ffos-las Lakes on 31 May; PEMBROKE: present at Teifi Marshes, Ty-rhyg, Llangloffan Fen, Coed Glynaeron, Rosebush, Pengelli, Craig Lloyd and Brynberian Moor; CEREDIGION: estimated 25 breeding pairs at Cors Caron NNR; also present at Denmark Farm, Blaenpennal, Blaencaron, Pontrhydygroes and Cross Inn Forest; BRECON: pair at Llaneglwys Forest on 16 Feb. and male here in April; nest with six eggs in Taf Fechan Forest was deserted by 30 May; RADNOR: Cors-y-Llyn and Byton, Lugg valley; MEIRIONNYDD: Pantperthog; DENBIGH: two in Chwiler Valley near Bodfari; FLINT: Afonwen.

Outside the breeding season elsewhere, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Trecynon Bog, Onllwyn, Caerau, Nelson

Bog and Aberdare; two at Blaencaerau in Jan.; GOWER: two at Gorseinon on 12 Dec.; two at Stafford Common, Gowerton, on 26 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Upper Lliedi Res. on 13 Jan.; Llangunnor on 30 Jan.; Upper Brynamman on 13 July; Idole in Dec.; PEMBROKE: Henry's Moat, Puncheston, on 15 Jan.; Llanychaer on 21 Jan.; Pantmenog on 25 Aug.; CEREDIGION: five localities; BRECON: pair at Libanus on 10 Feb.; up to four in Glasfynydd Forest/Usk Res. area in Aug.-Dec.; Crai Res.; Lower Neuadd Res.; Yr Allt, Sennybridge; RADNOR: RWT Gilfach on 18 Aug.; Llandrindod Wells on 31 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: uplands west of Dylife on 11 July; MEIRIONNYDD: Corris in Dec.; Pennal on 19 Dec.; DENBIGH: Llyn Brenig on 10 Nov.; Chirk on 20 Nov.

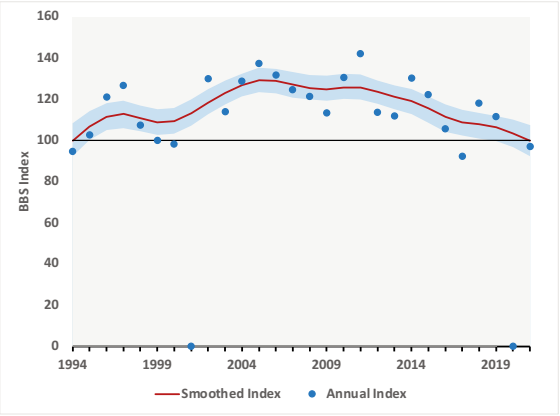
BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* TITW TOMOS LAS

Abundant resident (415,000 territories), most numerous in deciduous woodland but more widespread in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	11038	11073
% of BirdTrack lists	54%	51%

A significant (18%) decline during 2010-20, measured by the Breeding Bird Survey for Wales, will - if continued - take Blue Tit into a negative trend since 1995. Several breeding seasons of low nest productivity owing to poor weather conditions in spring feed quickly into the population trend for a short-lived bird. The wettest May on record following a cold April combined to result in a disastrous breeding season across Britain, although the Welsh figures from nestbox-ringing show considerable variation between sites. Summer use of gardens (reporting rate of 78.9% in July) was the lowest since the BTO Garden BirdWatch started in 1995 and the annual peak (93.4% in January) was the second lowest, illustrating the long-term decline.

Breeding Bird Survey: Blue Tit in Wales, 1994-2021



Site, county	*Pairs*	*Young*	*Young/nest*	*Young/nest (year)*
Cwm Clydach, GOWER	47	269	5.7	5.9 (2019)
Halfway, CARMARTHEN			7.22	8.9 (2019)
Coed Nant Brân, BRECON	16	26	1.63	6.47 (2020)
Conwy Valley, DENBIGH	22	25	1.14	3.81 (2019)
Glyn Arthur, DENBIGH	16	58	3.63	5.31 (2019)
Prion, DENBIGH	35	214	6.11	7.09 (2019)
Glyn Ceiriog, DENBIGH	36	130	3.61	

Monitoring at other sites: CARMARTHEN: 36 pairs at Penclacwydd, including 25 in boxes; at Halfway, 20% of nests were deserted at the egg stage and the clutch size was smaller than usual (9.3 eggs/nest, *cf*. 10.4 in 2019); BRECON: only seven of 70 boxes at Rhiw, Llanwrthwl, were occupied in the first week of June.

2019 GWENT: at least 136 in an Abergavenny garden on 26 July.

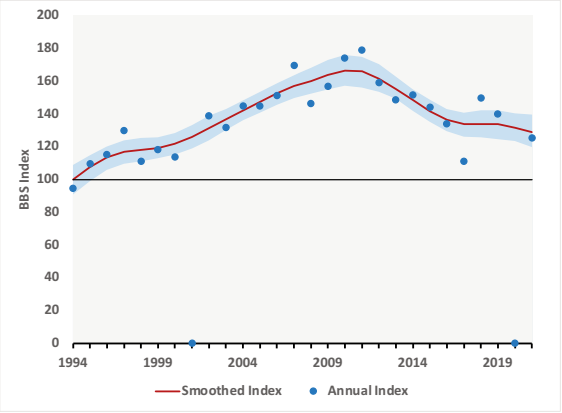
GREAT TIT *Parus major* TITW MAWR

Abundant and widespread throughout Wales up to c.500m above sea level except on small islands (255,000 territories). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	8806	8909
% of BirdTrack lists	46%	41%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell at a similar rate (-21%) to Blue Tit during 2010-20, but the species' stronger increase in abundance in the previous 15 years has ensured that the index remains 23% above the 1995 baseline. There has also been a long-term decline in the reporting rate from gardens, the maximum in the 2021 BTO Garden BirdWatch being 79.3% (in November). The BirdTrack reporting rate has been fairly steady since 2013, returning to a typical level in 2021 following an increase in 2020 that reflects the suburban bias of lists made during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Breeding Bird Survey: Great Tit in Wales, 1994-2021



Across the UK, Great Tit had a terrible breeding season, producing the lowest average numbers of fledglings per breeding attempt since figures were first produced in the mid-1960s, and this was true of most sites in Wales. Great Tit also recorded its lowest ever clutch size in 2021. The cold, wet spring and early summer is the most likely cause of poor offspring production, preventing fledging or increasing mortality of fledglings shortly after they had left the nest.

Site, county	*Pairs*	*Young ringed*	*Young/nest*	*Young/nest (year)*
Cwm Clydach, GOWER	36	165	4.6	4.9 (2019)
Coed Nant Brân, BRECON	3	2	0.67	4.0 (2020)
Conwy Valley, DENBIGH	13	23	1.77	4.86 (2019)
Glyn Arthur, DENBIGH	15	37	2.47	4.91 (2019)
Prion, DENBIGH	15	56	3.73	6.00 (2019)
Glyn Ceiriog, DENBIGH	27	61	2.26	

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* TITW BARFOG

Breeds at Newport Wetlands Reserve (RBBP: three pairs in 2019) and occurs occasionally at other reedbeds in southeast Wales. Bred in Anglesey (1967-69) and Gower (1973-86). Elsewhere, rare autumn and winter visitor. Seven records away from Gwent and East Glamorgan since 2000. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**30**	**20**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Breeding: GWENT: three pairs at Newport Wetlands Reserve.

2019 GWENT: monthly maxima at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth):

Monthly max.	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Newport Wetlands		9	6	5	4	5	2	1	6	11	4	8

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* EHEDYDD COED

Former breeding species; occurs in small numbers each winter.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**6**	**3**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

Non-breeding, singles unless stated: GWENT/E.GLAMORGAN: Rumney Great Wharf on 31 Aug., flushed by a Sparrowhawk and flew into Gwent; E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 11 April and two here on 10 Oct.; Kenfig NNR on 12 Oct. and 21 Oct.; CAERNARFON: south over Bardsey on 3 Nov.

2019 GWENT: one near Redwick on 14 Oct.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* EHEDYDD

Fairly common and widespread but declining breeding species (115,000 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2199	2596
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	11%

The Breeding Bird Survey index fell to its lowest level, 24% below both the 1995 baseline and its recent 2015 peak. Notwithstanding a dip in 2020 that may be an effect of COVID-19 lockdowns, the BirdTrack reporting rate in 2021 was also at its lowest.

Breeding Bird Survey: Skylark in Wales, 1994-2021

Counts ≥100: E.GLAMORGAN: 110 at Temple Bay on 6 Oct.; 103 at Lavernock Pt on 10 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 150 at Folkestone Farm on 11 Jan.; 100 at Llanunanwas, Solva, on 15 Nov.; 105 on Skokholm on 9 Oct.; 100 at Dale Airfield on 17 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 275 south at Llanon and 110 on 7 Nov.; BRECON: 100 near WTSWW Y Byddwn on 25 Jan. and 200 here on 15 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 103 over Mynydd Mawr on 10 Oct., 115 here on 16th and 128 on 25th; 125 at Morfa Dinlle on 17 Nov. and 160 here on 25th; daily max. 145 on Bardsey in Oct. and 187 in Nov.; FLINT: *c*.100 near Caerwys on 15 Feb.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Locally common breeding visitor, most numerous in eastern counties. Passage migrant elsewhere. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	986	1502
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	6%

The UK indices for both the Breeding Bird Survey and the Waterways Breeding Bird Survey show a slight upward trend. Although far from comparable, even accounting for fewer records in 2020, the BirdTrack reporting rate would suggest the opposite for Wales.

Breeding colonies (AON unless stated): GWENT: on R. Usk, nested at Llanwenarth and Llanfoist; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at six localities including four at Bridgend town centre, 15 at Peterston Moors and five at Treorchy, and probably nested at five sites; GOWER: 378-384 nests at 17 sites; CARMARTHEN: 20 along R. Tywi, Llandovery; 32 at Burry Port; PEMBROKE: five at Aber Mawr; four on Eastern Cleddau est.; 60 at Newgale; 12-15 at Freshwater West; BRECON: 50 at Scethrog/Pencelli flooded out on 8 May, 45 new nests here on 19 June; MEIRIONNYDD: 15 birds flying into holes in Pont Carrog bridge on 28 May; CAERNARFON: bred at Porthdinllaen, around Dwyfor est. and 71 at Dinas Dinlle; DENBIGH: possibly nested at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: nested at Bagillt Marshes.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	20 March	Monmouth		3 Oct.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	**19 Feb.**	**Cardiff Bay**		3 Oct.	Cardiff Bay
GOWER	24 March	Morriston		3 Oct.	Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir
CARMARTHEN	28 Feb.	Marros Beach		9 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	25 Feb.	Trefeiddan		**16 Oct.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	25 Feb.	RSPB Ynys-hir		28 Sept.	Glandyfi
BRECON	13 March	Llangorse Lake		3 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	8 April	Llyn Heilyn		17 Aug.	Llanelwedd
MONTGOMERY	20 March	Dolydd Hafren		15 Sept.	near Kerry Ridgeway
MEIRIONNYDD	17 March	Cynwyd		14 Oct.	Glandyfi
CAERNARFON	16 March	Llandudno		15 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	6 March	RSPB Cors Ddyga		11 Sept.	Traeth Lligwy
DENBIGH	23 March	Wrexham		4 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	17 March	Point of Ayr		24 Aug.	Bagillt

The first in E.GLAMORGAN was the earliest ever for that county, four days earlier than one in 2016. The first in CARMARTHEN and CEREDIGION were the earliest this century (*cf*. 3 March 2008 and 1 March 2012 respectively).

The last in BRECON was the latest here this century, by seven days (*cf*. 26 Sept. 2012) and the last in MEIRIONNYDD the latest by a remarkable 26 days (*cf*. 18 Sept. 2009).

Counts ≥100: GWENT: 140 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 27 June, max. here 522 in July and 250 in Aug.; 190 at Undy on 3 Sept. and 391 here on 4th; E.GLAMORGAN: 1000 at Cardiff Bay on 7 April; 300 at Kenfig NNR on 25 July; 100 at Cardiff Bay on 1 Oct.; GOWER: 200 at Fendrod Lake on 6 April; 350 at Castell-du on 20 July; 100 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 8 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 100 at Ashpit Ponds on 31 March and 150 here on 1 April; 250 at Talley Lakes on 5 April; 500 roosted on Cefn Sidan sand spit on 14 July and 100 here on 24 July; 200 over Penclacwydd on 20 July; 100 at Pembrey Harbour on 8 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 210 at Teifi Marshes on 18 March and 100 here on 26 March and 4 April; 159 at Skomer on 7 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 449 north over Ynyslas on 30 March, the highest total for any UK site in March ever recorded on **Trektellen.org**; BRECON: max. 300 roosted at Llangorse Lake on 8-10 July, 500 on 15-25 July and 400 on 12 Aug.; RADNOR: 160 at Llandrindod Lake on 3 May; CAERNARFON: max. 103 passed Bardsey on 19 April; ANGLESEY: *c.*100 at Llyn Llywenan on 31 March; 490 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 2 April, *c.*100 here on 3rd and *c.*200 on 4th; FLINT: 107 at Brickfields NR, Rhyl, on 4 May.

2020 RADNOR: the last of the year was incorrect in *Welsh Bird Report* 2020 and should have been on 21 Sept. at Llowes.

2019 GWENT: latest record was five at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 12 Oct., jointly the latest that year in Wales. Breeding colonies: 4 AON at Bedwellty Pits, 24 AON at two colonies south of Usk (but probably flooded in June) and an uncounted colony at Llanvihangel Gobion. Additional counts ≥100 to those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019: at Newport Wetlands Reserve, 184 on 3 April, 123 on 6th, 200 on 7th and 200 on 8th, 125 on 1 July, 300 on 15th and *c.*100 on 27th. Also 160 at Llanvihangel Gobion on 20 April.

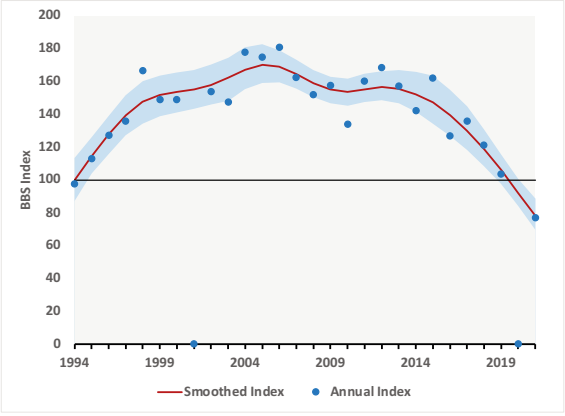
Swallows (Dave Parry)

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* GWENNOL

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor (82,000 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	4541	5269
% of BirdTrack lists	20%	22%

Breeding Bird Survey: Swallow in Wales, 1994-2021



The absence of Swallows from the Welsh countryside has been remarked upon by farmers and the general public, and the change is borne out by the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, which had been tracking above the UK average for the last 25 years, but which is now very similar, 19% below the 1995 baseline. The index is now more than 50% lower than its 2005 peak. The BirdTrack reporting rate in 2020 was probably negatively influenced by COVID-19 travel restrictions, but otherwise 2021 was the poorest year yet, one-third below the rate in 2013.

The only comparable nesting data was from CAERNARFON: 10 pairs nested on Bardsey, one fewer than in 2020, raising min. 52 young *(cf.* 57 in 2020). As in 2020, nest sites in BRECON included a sentry box on MoD Epynt and a bus shelter at Aberbran.

Swallow is rapidly going the way of Chiffchaff with more records in January and December than any previous year, including a flock of 12 in GOWER in Dec. This makes it difficult to judge whether extreme dates involve migrating or overwintering individuals. For now, records in those two months are reported separately from other late/early dates, which are shown in the tables below.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (February to November).

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	26 March	Lower Machen		30 Oct.*	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	23 March	Kenfig NNR		25 Oct.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	29 March*	Three sites		21 Nov.*	Margam Burrows
CARMARTHEN	26 March	Ashpits Pond and Abergwili		25 Nov.*	Gelliwernen
PEMBROKE	19 March	Newgale		17 Nov.*	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	22 March	Ynyslas		18 Oct.	Mydroilyn
BRECON	28 March	Llangorse Lake and Mynydd Llangynidr		7 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	2 April	Three sites		26 Sept.	Llandrindod Lake
MONTGOMERY	21 March	Dolydd Hafren		16 Oct.*	near Newtown
MEIRIONNYDD	31 March	Ty Newydd Morfa		17 Oct.	Pennal
CAERNARFON	24 March	Bangor		30 Nov.	Pwllheli
ANGLESEY	**4 March**	**RSPB Cors Ddyga**		30 Nov.*	Rhoscolyn
DENBIGH	28 March	Llanddulas		6 Oct.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	27 March	Rhyl		8 Oct.	Rhuddlan

*Winter records (Jan. and Dec.), singles unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 11 Dec.; GOWER: Kenfig Saltmarsh on 3 Jan.; 12 at Staffal Haegr on 4 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: two at Pen-y-Bedd on 5-10 Dec.; Kidwelly Quay from 15 Dec. to March 2022, the first overwintering record in the county; PEMBROKE: Amroth on 19 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: breeding male at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy office failed to migrate, returning to roost each night until early Dec., when it was found dead below the nest on 7th; ANGLESEY: Craig y Rhwyd dunes, Ynys Llanddwyn, on 25 Dec.

Counts ≥300 on autumn passage: GWENT: 330 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 22 Aug., 363 here on 12 Sept. and 322 on 26th; 537 at Undy on 28 Aug., 323 on 30th, 619 on 3 Sept. and 876 on 4th; E.GLAMORGAN: 400 at Rumney Great Wharf on 25 Aug.; 400 at Lavernock Pt on 15 Sept., a huge 20,000 here on 19th and 1200 on 25th; 638 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 20 Sept.; GOWER: 1500 over Crymlyn Burrows on 11 Sept.; 4000 over Jersey Marine in 30 minutes on 19 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 250 at Pembrey Harbour on 8 Sept.; 300 over Penclacwydd on 9 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 1283 at Old Mill Grounds, Haverfordwest, on 19 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 1000 roosted at Cors Ddyga on 24 Aug.

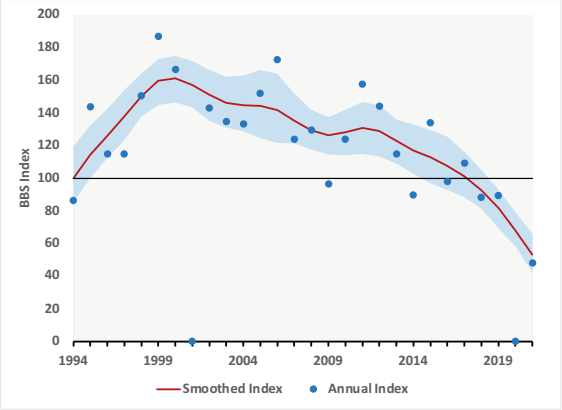
HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* GWENNOL Y BONDO

Fairly common summer visitor (67,500 pairs). The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2754	2395
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	10%

A 40% decline in the Breeding Bird Survey index (2019-21) is the largest two-year decline of any species in Wales except Greenfinch, and accelerates a downward trend that has been underway for 20 years. The BBS index is now 40% below its 1995 baseline. BirdTrack saw a drop of similar magnitude, the reporting rate in 2021 was 27% below the 2013-20 mean, whereas the BTO Garden BirdWatch shows no strong trend.

Breeding Bird Survey: House Martin in Wales, 1994-2021



Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 15 localities including 70 AON at Penarth Marina and 13 in Glebe Street, Penarth (*cf. c.*100 nests at the two sites in 2020); BRECON: 8-9 AON at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl; 10 AON around Brecon; 8 AON in Sennybridge; 8 AON at Cilrhew Farm, Libanus; 5 AON on Defynnog Church; 4 AON in Cradoc; CAERNARFON: 6 AON at Idwal Cottage, Llyn Ogwen; 10 AON at Plas y Brenin, Capel Curig; 16 AON on Aber Falls Hotel, Abergwyngregyn; min. seven young fledged from 2 AON on Bardsey.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	5 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve		4 Oct.	Llanwenarth
E.GLAMORGAN	29 March	Dowlais Tip		**3 Nov.**	**Grangetown**
GOWER	9 April	Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir		5 Oct.	Mumbles Hill
CARMARTHEN	2 April	Salem		25 Oct.	Burry Port Park
PEMBROKE	30 March	Llanferran		11 Oct.	Caldey
CEREDIGION	29 March	New Quay		3 Oct.	Teifi Marshes
BRECON	6 April	Llangorse Lake		26 Sept.	Cradoc
RADNOR	7 April	Springrock Fishery		4 Sept.	Three sites
MONTGOMERY	4 April	MWT Llandinam Gravels		16 Oct.	near Corris
MEIRIONNYDD	2 April	Cwm Cywarch		16 Oct.	Corris
CAERNARFON	26 March	Gyffin		30 Oct.	Porth Meudwy
ANGLESEY	**3 March**	**RSPB Cors Ddyga**		10 Oct.	Holyhead
DENBIGH	1 April	Denbigh		10 Oct.	Llanddulas
FLINT	1 April	Connah's Quay NR		3 Oct.	Nannerch Fish Pond

Counts ≥200: GWENT: 250 at Redbrook on 20 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 250 at Lavernock Pt on 15 Sept.; GOWER: 400 over Jersey Marine on 19 Sept.; BRECON: 200-300 at Cradoc on 20-26 Sept.; up to 300 through Capel-y-ffin on 5-7 Sept, and up to 200 here on 15-17 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 350 over Bardsey on 1 Sept., of which 66 were caught and ringed.

2019 GWENT: 74 AON at 12 sites, the largest colony being 19 AON at Ynysddu. In the autumn, 1280 fed over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 14 Sept.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropsis daurica* GWENNOL DINGOCH

Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 33 previous records.

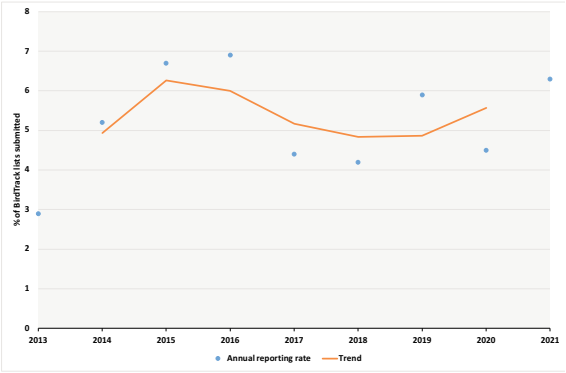
GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 23 May.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* TELOR CETTI

Uncommon but increasing resident (300-600 breeding pairs) in mid and south Wales and on Anglesey. Occasional away from core areas in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1019	1485
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Cetti's Warbler in Wales 2013-21



The BirdTrack reporting rate suggests recovery from setbacks in 2017 and 2018 related to cold winter weather. The first confirmed breeding in MONTGOMERY, a new site in BRECON and a territory near Aberdare, E.GLAMORGAN, shows that the species is consolidating its presence inland.

Singing males in breeding season unless stated: GWENT: record 93 territories at Newport Wetlands Reserve; up to five at Magor Marsh during March to May and four on 4 Dec.; up to four throughout the year between Rumney Great Wharf and Peterstone Wentlooge; singles at Marshfield, Duffryn, Caerleon and Undy between March and Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Parc Tredelerch; regular all year at Cadoxton Ponds (max. 11 in July), Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve (max. 10 in March), Kenfig NNR (max. nine in April/May), Hendre Lake (max. five in April), Cosmeston Lakes CP (max. three in Oct.) and at seven other sites including well inland at Tirfounder Flood Plains near Aberdare; GOWER: bred at Oxwich NNR; probably bred at 12 sites, max. seven at any site; one at Brunel Docks on 13 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 55 singing males at 18 sites, including 21 at Penclacwydd, six at Ffrwd Fen, five at Glan yr Afon, Kidwelly, and four at Pwll; PEMBROKE: five singing males at Llangloffan Fen, four at Tenby Marsh, three at Castlemartin Corse and 1-2 at eight other sites; one on Skokholm on 10 Oct.; CEREDIGION: six territories at RSPB Ynys-hir; five singing males at Teifi Marshes; at least five territories at Cors Fochno/Ynyslas; one singing at Cors Caron on 25 Feb.; BRECON: 5-6 territories at Llangorse Lake and several juveniles ringed here; singing male near Pencelli, a new site; RADNOR: Llandrindod Lake on 3 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: bred at MWT Pwll Penarth, believed to be the first confirmed breeding in the county; probably bred at MWT Cors Dyfi; MEIRIONNYDD: one by R. Wnion, Dolgellau, on 28 June; Mochras on 14 Dec.; Glandyfi on 15 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Llyn Ystumllyn on 21 March; Morfa Abererch on 1 June; Criccieth on 17 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 26 at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 11 at RSPB Valley Wetlands; three at Llyn Maelog; recorded at eight other sites; DENBIGH: up to five at RSPB Conwy; one at Kinmel Bay on 27 March; two at Fenn's, Whixhall and Bettisfield Moss NNR on 15 Nov.; FLINT: 3-5 at Gronant Dunes; two at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands; three at Llawndy Farm, Talacre, on 20 Sept.; also at eight other sites during the year.

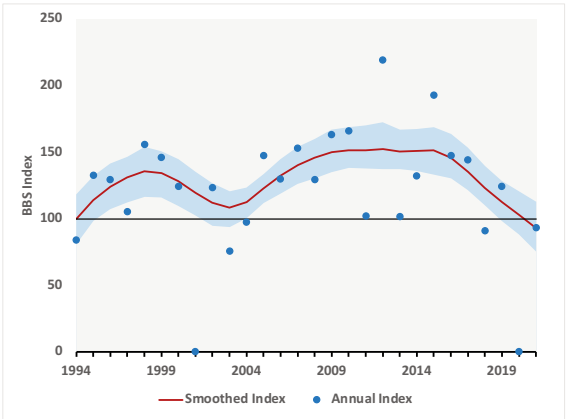
2019 GWENT: 72 singing males at Newport Wetlands Reserve, and at least 17 at other sites.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* TITW CYNFFONHIR

Fairly common resident (28,000 territories), widely distributed except on parts of Llŷn and Anglesey, and rare on other islands. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3916	3939
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	18%

Breeding Bird Survey: Long-tailed Tit in Wales, 1994-2021



This is another species that was doing well in Wales until 2015, since when the trend has been successively downward, and the Breeding Bird Survey index is now 10% below the 1995 baseline (and -32% during 2015-20). The BirdTrack reporting rate fluctuates considerably, the 2021 rate being above the 2013-20 mean, whereas the BTO Garden BirdWatch shows a long term increase: the reporting rate of 47.2% in January 2021 was the second highest month since the project started in 1995.

Counts ≥20: GWENT: 25 at Ponthir Res. on 15 Aug.; up to

44 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) in autumn; E.GLAMORGAN: 39 in Bute Park on 11 Jan.; 30 at Cowbridge Park on 12 Jan.; 20 at Hendre Lake on 9 Sept.; 20 by Sully Beach on 12 Oct.; 25 at Kenfig NNR on 14 Oct.; 20 at Lavernock Pt on 30 Oct. and 8 Nov.; GOWER: 40 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 28 June; BRECON: 30 in Upper Llangynidr on 30 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: 27 near Llawr-y-Glyn on 9 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 25 at Happy Valley, Llandudno, on 4 Nov.; 26 at Morfa Aber on 8 Oct.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* TELOR COED

Localised and uncommon, but declining, summer visitor to upland woods (2850 breeding males). Passage migrant in small numbers at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	161	255
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

There is no Breeding Bird Survey trend for Wales, but the UK trend shows a 76% decline since 1995. This quite possibly includes sites in England from which the species has been lost completely during that time, so the change in Wales may be less dramatic, but local reports suggest reduced numbers in many areas, especially in Larch forestry that has been infected by disease and felled.

Singing males unless stated: GWENT: at seven sites, mainly in the north and west apart from a pair at Beacon Hill near Trellech; 12 nests found in Little Oak and Five Paths area of Wentwood Forest, of which seven were probably successful and five failures were due to predation by mouse, Jay (two) and unknown (two); E.GLAMORGAN: bred in Pennsylvania Wood at Aberkenfig and at Caerwen Farm near Garth Wood, Pentyrch; singing males in 13 other woods; GOWER: at eight sites, including six males at Cwm Clydach; CARMARTHEN: at Dinas and Cwrt y Cadno; four clutches of six in the Llandovery area fledged 24 young (6.0 young/nest); PEMBROKE: two at Tŷ Canol on 25 April, four at Minwear Wood on 9 May and one at Benton Woods, Llangwm, on 22 June; CEREDIGION: widely reported, including in conifer plantations at Nant yr Arian and Penbontrhydybeddau; four at Longwood; two at Cross Inn Forest; 13 at Hafod estate; many at RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas; BRECON: at 18 sites; nest-building at Buckland Wood on 14 May; MONTGOMERY: 20+ singing males at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-3 at 18 sites but no proven breeding; CAERNARFON: at 20+ sites; nest-building at Rowen on 16 May; DENBIGH: probably bred at nine locations; FLINT: four locations.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no records in ANGLESEY).

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	14 April	Llanthony valley		3 Aug.	Pen-y-Fal
E.GLAMORGAN	19 April	Gwaelod-y-Garth		1 Aug.	Dyffryn Farm near Caerau
GOWER	23 April	Mynydd Drumau		14 July	Pontneddfechan
CARMARTHEN	23 April	Halfway		no autumn records	
PEMBROKE	22 April	Pantmaenog		**10 Sept.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	**11 April**	**Penglais woods**		17 July	RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas
BRECON	21 April	Estyn Wood		3 Aug.	below Mynydd Pen-y-fal
RADNOR	5 May	Warren Wood		19 July	Gilfach NR
MONTGOMERY	25 April	RSPB Lake Vyrnwy		no autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	24 April	Abergwynant		22 July	Bod Petryal
CAERNARFON	14 April	below Conwy Falls		9 Aug.	Bardsey
DENBIGH	27 April	Coed Hafod		no autumn records	
FLINT	9 May	Queensferry		no autumn records	

2019 GWENT: latest record was of two reported at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 14 Sept., the latest in Wales that year by more than four weeks.

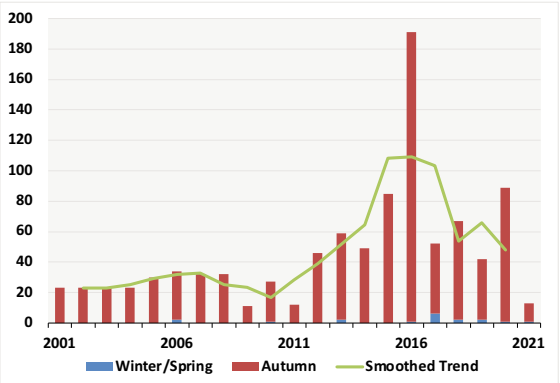
YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* TELOR AELFELYN

Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, from northeast Europe. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	104	20
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

One overwintered on ANGLESEY, seen at Llyn Llywenan on 1 Jan. and again briefly on 27 and 28 Feb., but autumn bucked the recent trend of increased numbers, with just 12 records. The latest was one by the Gann

Yellow-browed Warblers recorded in Wales, 2001-21



est., PEMBROKE, on 1-2 Dec. It was the poorest showing since 2011, and there was a total absence of Pallas's Warbler, which breed in the same part of Siberia.

Number of new birds occurring in each month.

	Oct	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN		1	
GOWER	1		
PEMBROKE	3	2	1
CAERNARFON	1		
Bardsey	3		

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* TELOR BONELLI Y GORLLEWIN

Scarce visitor from northwest Europe. WBRC: 15 previous records.

PEMBROKE: 2CY+ ringed on Skokholm on 2 June.

DUSKY WARBLER *Phylloscopus fuscatus* TELOR TYWYLL

Very rare visitor from central and eastern Asia. WBRC: seven previous records.

FLINT: one at Pt of Ayr on 13-15 Nov. was the second county record.

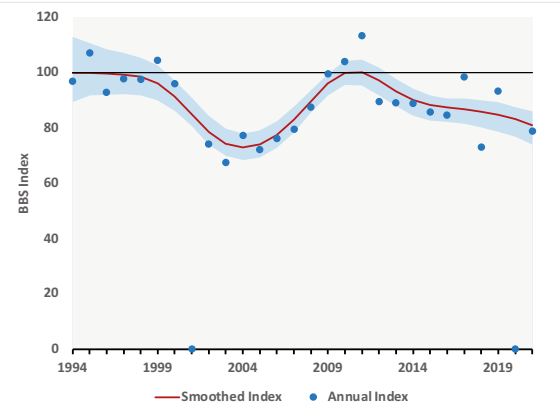
WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* TELOR HELYG

Abundant summer visitor (265,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Numerous up to c.670m but becoming less common in lowland habitats in the south. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2387	3244
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	14%

The Breeding Bird Survey trend in Wales has been downward for the last decade, and the index is now 17% below its 1995 baseline and its recent 2011 peak. The long-term decline is far greater in England (-50%), and particularly acute in southeast England (-87%). The BirdTrack reporting rate was noticeably suppressed in 2020, doubtless owing to restricted access to suitable habitat for many users during the peak periods of arrival and territory establishment. The 2021 rate was below the 2013-20 average.

Breeding Bird Survey: Willow Warbler in Wales, 1994-2021



Selected breeding season records from southeast Wales: GWENT: widespread in the north and west but few records in the east, those being mainly on the Trelelch plateau at Broadmeend and Chepstow Park Wood, the Monnow Valley at Osbaston and Dingestow; E.GLAMORGAN: further reduction in records, with confirmed breeding at only 10 sites, probable at six and singing males (which may have been on passage) at 120 others.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	**10 March**	**Tintern**		19 Sept.	Undy
E.GLAMORGAN	25 March	Kenfig Pool		22 Sept.	Abercwmboi Lake & Rhymney Gt Wharf
GOWER	31 March	below Mynydd y Gaer		18 Sept.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	30 March	Three sites		22 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	29 March	Fleming Crescent woodland		11 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	30 March	Three sites		25 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	31 March	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl		6 Sept.	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	1 April	RSPB Carngafallt		29 Aug.	Black Hill
MONTGOMERY	22 March	Welshpool		17 Sept.	MWT Roundton Hill
MEIRIONNYDD	27 March*	Lower Tryweryn		15 Aug.	Pantperthog
CAERNARFON	30 March	Three sites		**15 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	31 March	Cemlyn		13 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	30 March	Bettisfield		11 Sept.	Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Moss NNR
FLINT	30 March	Brickfields NR, Rhyl		19 Sept.	Buckley

*one at Dyffryn Ardudwy, MEIRIONNYDD, on 22 Feb. may have overwintered.

The first in MONTGOMERY was the earliest in the county this century, by one day (*cf*. 23 March 2016).

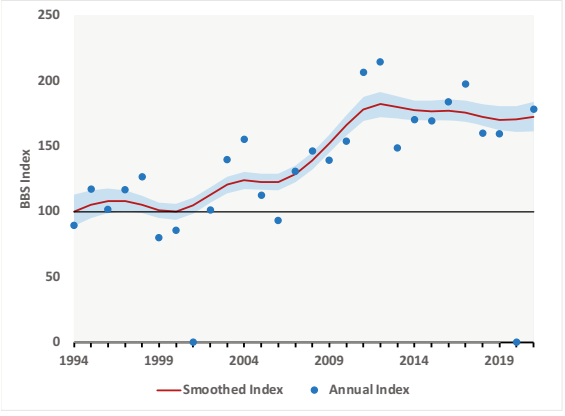
Counts of ≥10: GWENT: 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 11 April; 20 at Bryn Bach near Tredegar on 19 April; 11 on the Blorenge on 23 April; 10 on Mynydd Llangatwg on 31 May; 10 at Garn Lakes on 13 June; 11 at The Park on 21 June; 13 at Wentwood on 2 Aug.; 35 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 23 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Lavernock Pt on 26 Aug. and 20 here on 29th; GOWER: 10 at Craig-y-Llyn on 31 May; 23 ringed at Southgate on 9 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 13 singing at Llangadog Common on 30 May; PEMBROKE: 40 at Rosebush on 21 April; 21 at Old Mill Grounds, Haverfordwest, on 27 July; 103 on Skokholm on 1 Aug. and 134 here on 10 Sept.; 77 on Skomer on 7 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 19 singing at Longwood and 97 in Cross Inn Forest in breeding season; up to 30 at Cors Caron on 31 May; BRECON: 11 males at Sgwd-yr-Eira/Cilhepste, 14 at Clwyd-rhyd-fan and 10 at Craig-y-Dinas on 20 April; 24+ at Yr Allt, Sennybridge, on 1 May; 16 territories at Dyffryn Crawnon; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 between Llyn Trawsfynydd and Tomen y Mur on 22 April; 30 at The Ranges, Trawsfynydd, on 27 April; 11 singing at NWWT Gwaith Powdwr on 27 May; CAERNARFON: daily max. 131 on Bardsey on 30 March and 139 in April; 30 at Mynydd Rhiw on 15 April; 23 on Great Orme on 24 April; daily max. 60 on Bardsey in Aug. and 699 in Sept.; DENBIGH: 14 at Pentre-llyn-cymmer on 16 April; 12 at Moelfre Uchaf on 24 April; 21 in Ceiriog Forest on 1 May and 22 here on 10 June; 11 in Alwen forestry and at Garreg Ddu on 26 and 27 May; 11 at Burley Hill Quarry on 21 June; 13 at Minera Quarry on 27 June; 11 at World's End on 10 July; 15+ at Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Moss NNR on 31 July; DENBIGH/FLINT: 26 at Penycloddiau on 16 May and 20 here on 31 May and 6 June.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* SIFF-SIAFF

Abundant summer visitor (245,000 breeding territories) and on passage. Winters in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**5722**	**6524**
% of BirdTrack lists	**27%**	**28%**

Breeding Bird Survey: Chiffchaff in Wales, 1994-2021



By contrast to Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff has done well over the long-term, and maintained a steady Breeding Bird Survey trend for the last decade. The BirdTrack reporting rate in 2021 was above the 2013-20 mean. The summer (March-Oct.) rate is recovering from a sharp drop during 2018, whereas the winter rate (2.5% of lists submitted during Nov.-Feb.) was similar to the previous four years, but is lower than the reporting rate during winters 2012/13-2016/17 (3.4%).

Notable counts on spring passage: GWENT: 23 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 2 April, 14 here on 5 April, 80 on 11th, 18 on 24th and 20 on 26th; E.GLAMORGAN: 15 at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 5 March; 12 at Merthyr Mawr on 9 March; CAERNARFON: max. day count 186 on Bardsey in March and 32 in April.

Winter records. Some birds occurred over an extended period and some records refer to more than one bird.

	Jan	*Feb*		*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2	4		6	3
GOWER	1	2		3	1
E.GLAMORGAN	1+	3+		55	
CARMARTHEN	9	2		3	3
PEMBROKE	7	9		6	9
CEREDIGION	3	4		2	1
BRECON				1	1
MONTGOMERY		1			
MEIRIONNYDD		1		3	
CAERNARFON	1	2		1	5
ANGLESEY	2	1		2	1
DENBIGH	1	6		4	2
FLINT	2	5		2	1

Autumn passage: GWENT: 20 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 2 Aug., 17 here on 29th and 15 on 12 Sept.; 13 at Peterstone Gout on 22 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 15 at Lavernock Pt on 5 Sept.; GOWER: 10 ringed at Oxwich Marsh on 28 Aug.; 12 at Mewslade on 17 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 13 at Penrhyngwyn on 3 Sept. and 18 here on 16th; 10 at Llyn Llech Owain Woods on 14 Sept.; CAERNARFON: max. day count on Bardsey was 100 in Sept.

***P.c. tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff / Siff-siaff Siberia)**

Uncommon autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor. 102 records since 1995.

A remarkable total of 32 in one year, almost one-third of those recorded in the previous quarter of a century! All were single birds unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Parc Taf Bargoed on 2 Jan.; Cardiff Bay on 14 Jan. and presumed same from 14 March to 17 April; Merthyr Mawr on 9 and 25 Feb., and 8 March; Sker Pt on 2 March; Kenfig Pool on 9 Nov. with up to four here until end of Dec.; Lavernock Pt on 16 Nov.; Cosmeston Lakes CP on 23 Nov.; Penarth Head on 11 Dec. and presumed same at Cardiff Bay on 13 Dec.; GOWER: Wernffrwd on 12 Feb., presumed same at Pwll-y-broga on 13 Feb.; Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 26 Nov.; ringed at Oxwich on 28 Nov.; Whiteford Pt on 30 Nov.; PEMBROKE: three on Skokholm on 13 Oct. and one here on 14th; Gann est. on 3 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: four ringed on Teifi Marshes in Nov., one in Ceredigion on 10th and three in Pembrokeshire (one on 16th and two on 17th); CEREDIGION: Penryn on 20 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Aberdaron on 13 April; ringed on Bardsey on 26 April and present on 27th; at least one on Bardsey on 3 Nov.; Bodwrdda, Aberdaron, on 13 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Penrhos Coastal Park on 29 Oct.; Amlwch Port on 2-22 Nov.; Traeth Lligwy on 6-13 Nov.; FLINT: Brickfields NR, Rhyl, on 2 Dec.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* TELOR HESG

Fairly common passage migrant and summer visitor, numerous at some sites (19,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

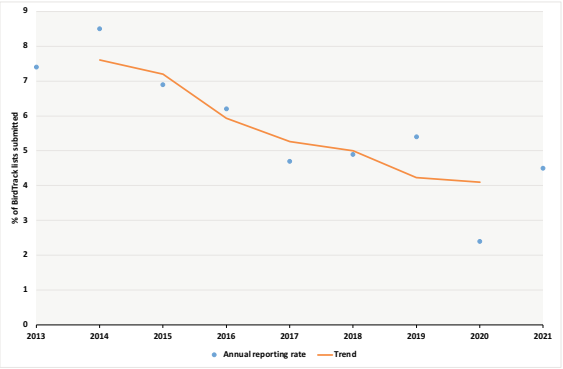
	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**592**	**1062**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**5%**

The UK Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen 36% since its peak in 2000, but the species occurs in too few BBS squares in Wales for a trend to be generated. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales bounced back from a low in 2020, when many people were unable to visit suitable wetland sites in spring as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions. However, it was otherwise the lowest reporting rate to date, 28% below the 2013-19 mean.

Notable spring passage: GWENT: 20 at RSPB Newport Wetlands and 10 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 26 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 30 on Teifi Marshes on 29 April; PEMBROKE: 12 at Trefeiddan on 1 May; CAERNARFON: max. day count 36 on Bardsey on 1 May.

Breeding territories: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth and Goldcliff) and Magor Marsh NR; E.GLAMORGAN: at 15 sites, mainly coastal; GOWER: eight sites, including confirmed breeding at Margam Moors; PEMBROKE: 18 locations, including 31 pairs on Skomer and one on Ramsey; CEREDIGION: 31 at Ynyslas on 11 May and 25+ at RSPB Ynys-hir on 14th; BRECON: bred near Llangasty Church; present at Y Gors, Trecastle; MONTGOMERY: five sites; MEIRIONNYDD: 19 at Llyn Tegid; nine at Broadwater; seven at Pennal; five at Penllyn; four at Lower Tryweryn

BirdTrack reporting rate: Sedge Warbler in Wales 2013-21



and Mochras/Artro est.; 1-2 at three other sites; CAERNARFON: bred at Morfa Aber, Morfa Madryn and R. Ganol, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos; nine pairs on Bardsey; ANGLESEY: 90 territories at RSPB Cors Ddyga (part of reserve surveyed); DENBIGH: 10 sites, including confirmed breeding at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: bred at Gronant Dunes and Clwyd est. and probably at Rhuddlan and Brickfields NR, Rhyl.

Autumn passage: GOWER: 50 ringed at Oxwich in late July and 17 on 8 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 24 on Skomer on 23 Aug.; 15 on Skokholm on 1 Aug. and 16 here on 10 Sept.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no records from RADNOR)

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	4 April	Newport Wetlands		25 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	**29 March**	**Grangemoor Park**		21 Sept.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER	13 April	Tir John Pond		18 Sept.	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	7 April	Ffrwd Fen		3 Sept.	Penrhyngwyn
PEMBROKE	31 March	Skomer		23 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	1 April	Teifi Marshes		**2 Nov.**	**Teifi Marshes**
BRECON	11 April	Llangasty		no autumn records	
MONTGOMERY	26 April	Cors Dyfi		no autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	20 April	Broadwater		23 July	Lower Tryweryn
CAERNARFON	30 March	Bardsey		20 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	9 April	RSPB Valley Wetlands		4 Sept.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	18 April	RSPB Conwy		27 Aug.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	20 April	Brickfields NR, Rhyl		16 Sept.	Gronant Dunes

The first in PEMBROKE and CAERNARFON were each one day ahead of the previous earliest in the county this century (in 2019 and 2014 respectively). The first in CEREDIGION matched the previous earliest in the county in the same period and the last, on 2 Nov. was 22 days later (*cf*. 11 Oct. 2016). The last in FLINT was also the latest in the county this century by 10 days (*cf*. 6 Sept. 2008 and 2009).

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum* TELOR CYRS BLYTH

Rare vagrant from eastern Europe. WBRC: 12 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one ringed on Skokholm on 9 Oct.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* TELOR CYRS

Locally fairly common and increasing summer visitor (11,000 breeding pairs). Uncommon passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**510**	**907**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**4%**

The UK index for the Breeding Bird Survey has increased slowly since 1995, but it occurs in too few BBS squares in Wales for a trend to be generated. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales returned to pre-2020 levels, but has fallen since 2015.

Breeding territories: GWENT: multiple sites across the Levels; also heard at Brynmawr Ponds and Parc Nant y waun; E.GLAMORGAN: seven sites, including confirmed breeding at Cors Crychydd Reen, Rumney Great Wharf and Tirfounder Fields; singing at 16 other localities; GOWER: six sites, including confirmed breeding at Neath Canal and Melincryddin; present at five other sites; CARMARTHEN: 43 territories at Penclacwydd; singing at seven other sites; PEMBROKE: nine sites, including seven at Teifi Marshes, five on Gann est. and 1-3 at others. CEREDIGION: five sites; BRECON: min. 11 (and confirmed breeding) at Llangorse Lake between Llangasty Church and the Crannog; RADNOR: Llandrindod Wells Lake; MONTGOMERY: bred at Cors Dyfi, Dolydd Hafren and Llyn Coed-y-dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-4 at eight sites; CAERNARFON: six sites, including six territories (and confirmed breeding) along R. Ganol at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos; ANGLESEY: seven sites; DENBIGH: bred at RSPB Conwy, probably at NT Erddig and Hanmer Mere, and singing at five other sites; FLINT: bred at Gronant Dunes, Rhyl Brickfields NR and Rhydymwyn.

Earliest and latest dates in each county

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	9 April	Newport Wetlands		23 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	**31 March**	**Cosmeston Lakes CP & Parc Tredelerch**		19 Sept.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	11 April	Pant y Sais Fen		9 Oct.	Oxwich Marsh
CARMARTHEN	11 April	Ashpits Pond		2 Sept.	Ffos-las Lakes
PEMBROKE	1 April	Teifi Marshes		**2 Nov.**	**Teifi Marshes**
CEREDIGION	1 April	Teifi Marshes		**2 Nov.**	**Teifi Marshes**
BRECON	5 April	Llangasty		28 Sept.	Llangasty
RADNOR	5 April	Llandrindod Wells		no autumn records	
MONTGOMERY	28 April	Three sites		1 Sept.	Llyn Coed-y-dinas
MEIRIONNYDD	12 April	R. Dysynni		14 Sept.	Barmouth
CAERNARFON	18 April	Pwllheli		8 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	15 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga		3 Sept.	Malltraeth Cob
DENBIGH	14 April	RSPB Conwy		11 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	19 April	Brickfields Pool NR, Rhyl		16 Sept.	NWWT Big Pool Wood

The records at Teifi Marshes were the earliest and latest this century for both PEMBROKE and CEREDIGION, surpassing the first spring record by eight days (*cf*. 9 April 2020 at the same site) and the last of the year by five days in Pembrokeshire (*cf*. 28 Oct. 2022) and 15 days in Ceredigion (*cf*. 18 Oct. 2015). The last of the year in MEIRIONNYDD was the latest this century by 18 days *(cf*. 27 Aug. 2013).

2019 GWENT, correction: the latest record of the year was on 20 Oct. (not 27th), which was the latest in Wales that year nonetheless.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides* TELOR BACH
Rare visitor from mainland Europe. BBRC: nine previous records.

CARMARTHEN: one singing at Penclacwydd on 6-29 May was the first county record. It is also the earliest arrival (*cf*. 13 May 1987 in Gower).

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* TELOR GWERNI
Rare visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 29 previous records.

CAERNARFON: one singing on Bardsey on 1 June.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta* TELOR PER
Scarce migrant from western Europe. WBRC: 226 previous records.

Singles unless stated. PEMBROKE: Grassholm on 24 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Porth Meudwy on 15 Aug.; two on Bardsey on 23 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Soldier's Pt, Holyhead, on 25 Aug.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* TELOR AUR

Scarce migrant from northeast Europe. WBRC: 123 previous records.

Singles. PEMBROKE: Skomer on 28 Aug.; CAERNARFON: male on Bardsey on 1 June and another bird on 1 Sept.

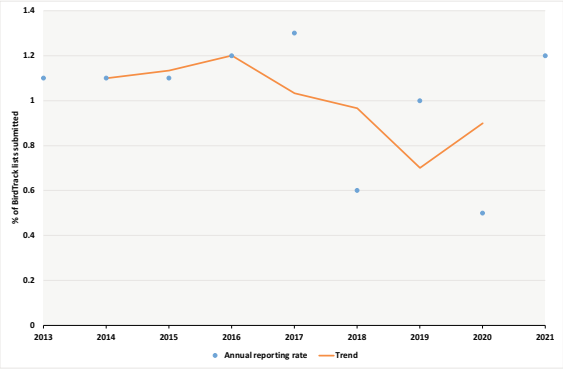
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* TROELLWR BACH

Uncommon summer visitor (2000 breeding territories), widespread but thinly distributed in all counties, and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	165	342
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The UK index for the Breeding Bird Survey fluctuates, consistent with a species that shows little natal site fidelity. However, Grasshopper Warbler occurs in too few squares in Wales for a BBS trend to be generated. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has returned to typical pre-2020 levels.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Grasshopper Warbler in Wales 2013-21



Breeding/reeling males: GWENT: Waunafon Bog; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Cwm Cadlan NNR; reeling at 15 other localities; GOWER: probably bred at Oxwich NNR and Swansea Vale; reeling at six other sites; CARMARTHEN: 13 sites; PEMBROKE: probably bred at five sites; reeling at 27 others; BRECON: bred at Gwaun Hepste, Ystradfellte; reeling at six other sites, including two males at one site and 3-4 at another; CEREDIGION: six sites; MONTGOMERY: two sites; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-5 birds at 16 sites; CAERNARFON: 6-7 below Llyn Eigiau; reeling at 14 other sites; ANGLESEY: six at RSPB Cors Ddyga; singles at four other sites; DENBIGH: at 13 locations.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no records from RADNOR)

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	11 April	Newport Wetlands Reserve		11 Aug.	Magor Marsh NR
E.GLAMORGAN	14 April	Three sites		24 Sept.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	9 April	Pennard		4 Sept.	Oxwich
CARMARTHEN	**4 April**	**Kymer's Canal, Kidwelly**		no autumn records	
PEMBROKE	9 April	Winterton Marsh		**2 Oct.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	12 April	Teifi Marshes		10 Sept.	Teifi Marshes
BRECON	22 April	Twrch Valley		1 July	Tonspyddaden
MONTGOMERY	19 April	Dolydd Hafren		23 Aug.	near Dolforwyn Woods
MEIRIONNYDD	22 April	Yr Ynys, Mawddach est.		no autumn records	
CAERNARFON	13 April	Aberdaron		23 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	6 April	Cemaes		18 July	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	24 April	RSPB Conwy & World's End		22 July	Esclusham Mountain
FLINT	18 April	Shotwick Fields		21 July	Rhydymwyn

The bird at Kidwelly on 4 April was the earliest in CARMARTHEN this century (*cf*. 7 April 2020), and that at Cemaes on 6 April equalled the earliest occurrence on ANGLESEY, in 2019 and 2020.

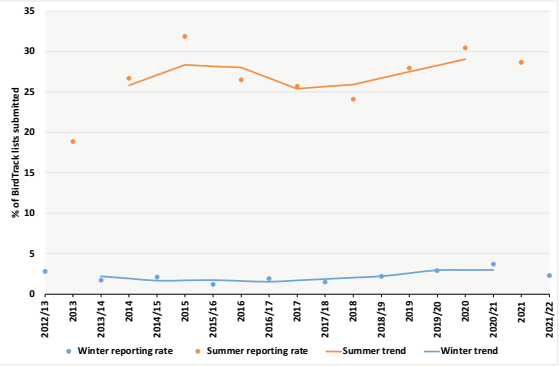
2019 GWENT, additional records to those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019: single reeling male at Llanwern steelworks on 23 April and Bryn Arw on 22 June.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* TELOR PENDDU

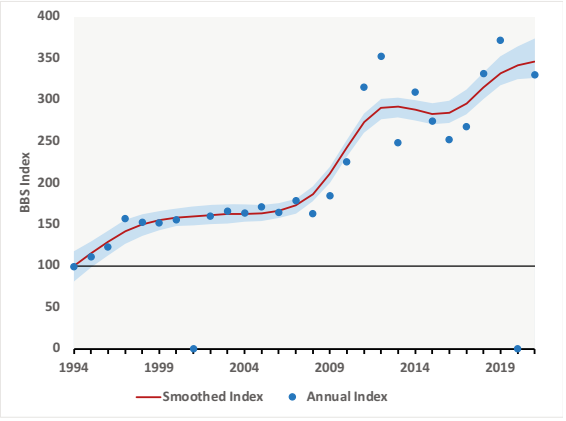
Abundant summer visitor (265,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Uncommon but widespread winter visitor (min. 2000 individuals). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3975	4212
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	18%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Blackcap in Wales 2013-21



Breeding Bird Survey: Blackcap in Wales, 1994-2021



The Breeding Bird Survey smoothed trend for Wales attained a new high, a significant 197% increase during 1995-2020. That is the second-highest long-term increase of any passerine, except Stonechat. The summer (April-Oct.) BirdTrack reporting rate - at 28.7% - was above the 2013-20 mean, whereas the winter rate (Nov.-March), at 2.3% of lists submitted in 2021/22, was below the record 3.7% in 2020/21 but still slightly above the average since 2012/13.

Winter records (records may refer to more than one bird).

	Jan	*Feb*		*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	3	3		1	3
E.GLAMORGAN	many			14	
GOWER	1			1	2
CARMARTHEN	6	1			1
PEMBROKE	6	8		4	2
CEREDIGION	1			2	
BRECON	1			1	
MONTGOMERY	2	1			
CAERNARFON	18	2		6	7
ANGLESEY	1			1	
DENBIGH	6	3		2	3
FLINT	2	1		1	3

Max. day counts on spring passage: PEMBROKE: 16 at Old Mill Grounds, Haverfordwest, on 16 April and 21 here on 17 April; 33 on Skokholm on 26 April; CAERNARFON: 69 on Bardsey on 30 March and 58 on 13 April.

Autumn: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 18 Aug.; 11 at Port Norton on 24 Aug.; 23 at Kenfig NNR on 21 Sept.; 10 at Lavernock Pt on 25 Sept.; GOWER: 81 ringed at Oxwich Marsh on 10-13 Sept.; 10 at Mumbles Hill on 3 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 31 at Teifi Marshes on 12 Sept.; 33 on Skokholm on 18 Sept. and 6 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 10 at Aberdaron on 11 Sept.

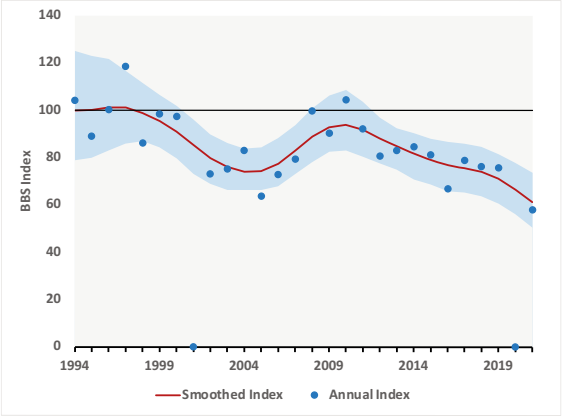
GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* TELOR YR ARDD

Fairly common, widespread summer visitor (39,500 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	455	525
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The Breeding Bird Survey index fell by 24% between 2019 and 2021, following a long period of relative stability, contributing to a long-term reduction of 34% (1995-2020). The trend is similar across England. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales was similar to the previous four years, but below the 2013-20 mean.

Breeding Bird Survey: Garden Warbler in Wales, 1994-2021



Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	13 April	St Julians, Newport		2 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	**4 April**	**Nantgarw**		16 Oct.	Kenfig NNR
GOWER	30 April	Swansea Vale		9 Oct.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	21 April	Kidwelly Quay		9 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	12 April	Martletwy		**2 Nov.**	**Broad Haven**
CEREDIGION	14 April	Penglais Wood		9 Oct.	Teifi Marshes
BRECON	22 April	Llangasty		11 Aug.	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	11 May	Elan Valley		18 Aug.	RWT Gilfach
MONTGOMERY	22 April	Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain		16 July	Cefn Coch, near Crickhowell
MEIRIONNYDD	13 April	Lower Tryweryn		23 July	Lower Tryweryn
CAERNARFON	11 April	Bodlondeb, Conwy		12 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	2 May	Braint estuary & Newborough		15 Sept.	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	27 April	Glyn Arthur		13 Aug.	Minera
FLINT	13 April	Sealand		27 Aug.	Rhydymwyn

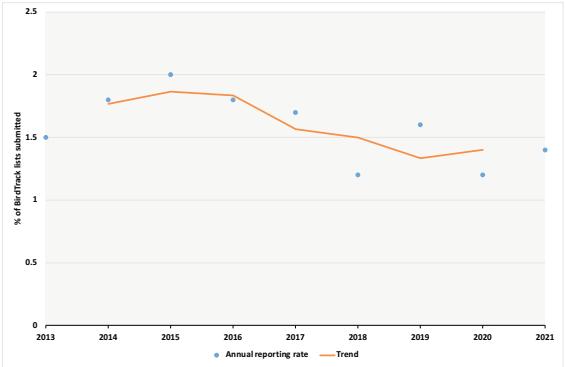
The bird at Nantgarw was a day earlier than the previous earliest in E.GLAMORGAN (*cf.* 5 April 2015).

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Curruca curruca* LLWYDFRON FACH

Fairly common, but patchily distributed, summer visitor (6950 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**338**	**349**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**1%**

BirdTrack reporting rate: Lesser Whitethroat in Wales 2013-21



The breeding trend for Lesser Whitethroat in Wales remains uncertain because of low sample size in the Breeding Bird Survey. The UK index had until 2019 been recovering from a substantial decrease in the late 1990s. However, it fell by 26% between 2019 and 2021. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has been lower since 2018 than in the previous five years, but was within its recent range in 2021.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no records in RADNOR or MEIRIONNYDD).

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	**10 April**	**Newport Wetlands**		16 Sept.	Caldicot Pill
E.GLAMORGAN	26 April	Kenfig NNR		16 Sept.	Sker Point
GOWER	21 April	Swansea Vale		9 Oct.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	19 April	Penclacwydd		14 Sept.	Penrhyngwyn
PEMBROKE	22 April	Gann estuary		13 Sept.	Dale Airfield
CEREDIGION	27 April	Llanrhystud		6 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	21 April	near Bronllys		20 Aug.	Llangasty
MONTGOMERY	25 April	Middletown		21 Aug.	Hendomen
CAERNARFON	22 April	Great Orme		**20 Nov.**	**Caernarfon**
ANGLESEY	23 April	Traeth Coch		14 Nov.	Soldier's Point, Holyhead
DENBIGH	11 April	near Bodfari		31 July	Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Moss
FLINT	11 April	Caerwys		18 Sept.	Rhuddlan

One at Holyhead, on 14 Nov. was the latest ANGLESEY record this century by 18 days (*cf.* 27 Oct. 2019) and the CAERNARFON record on 20 Nov. was the latest in both Wales and the county this century by three days (*cf.* 17 Nov. 2013), notwithstanding a number of individuals in Dec.-Feb., some of which may have been of eastern subspecies.

WESTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER *Curruca iberiae* TELOR BRONGOCH Y GORLLEWIN

Very rare migrant from western Mediterranean. BBRC: four previous records.

PEMBROKE: 2CY+ female ringed on Skokholm on 18 July.

EASTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER *Curruca cantillans* TELOR BRONGOCH DWYRAIN

Rare migrant from southeast Europe. BBRC: 19 previous records.

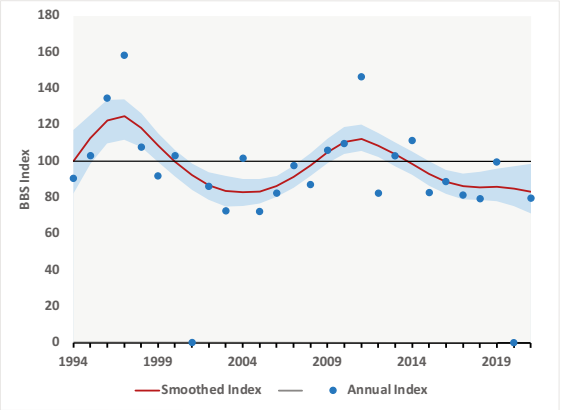
PEMBROKE: 2CY female ringed on Skokholm on 31 May; ANGLESEY: Mynachdy, Carmel Head, on 1 June was the first county record.

WHITETHROAT *Curruca communis* LLWYDFRON

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor (79,500 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**1753**	**2343**
% of BirdTrack lists	**8%**	**10%**

Breeding Bird Survey: Whitethroat in Wales, 1994-2021



The Breeding Bird Survey index in Wales has fallen by 25% since 1995. The BirdTrack reporting rate was higher than in 2020, but remained below the 2013-20 mean.

Notable counts on spring passage: PEMBROKE: 15 at Carnedd Lleithr on 6 May; 20 at Solva on 7 May; CAERNARFON: 16 at Mynydd Rhiw on 1 May; 19 at Foryd/Dinas Dinlle on 11 May.

Max. site counts on autumn passage: PEMBROKE: 24 on Skomer on 10 Aug.; 15 on Skokholm on 10 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 36 on Bardsey on 2 Sept.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	1 April	Peterstone Wentlooge		19 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	2 April	West Aberthaw		**15 Oct.**	**Sker Point**
GOWER	9 April	Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir		18 Sept.	Oxwich NNR
CARMARTHEN	12 April	Dredger Jetty, Pwll		18 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	1 April	Lydstep headland		6 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	14 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		21 Sept.	Llanrhystud
BRECON	17 April	Coed Cefn near Crickhowell		3 Sept.	Llangasty
RADNOR	11 May	Elan Valley		19 July	RWT Gilfach
MONTGOMERY	22 April	Middletown Hill & Llyn Clywedog		27 Aug.	Corndon Hill near Churchstoke
MEIRIONNYDD	23 April	Craig yr Aderyn		24 Sept.	Llandanwg
CAERNARFON	14 April	Foryd		11 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	9 April	Holyhead		20 Sept.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	18 April	RSPB Conwy		11 Sept.	Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Moss
FLINT	**20 March**	**Walwen Marsh**		15 Sept.	Clwyd estuary

The bird at Walwen Marsh on the Dee estuary was the earliest FLINT record this century by 10 days (*cf*. 30 March 2014).

DARTFORD WARBLER *Curruca undata* TELOR DARTFORD

Rare breeder, mainly in south and west Wales. RBBP: eight pairs in 2020. Occasional elsewhere, usually in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**21**	**14**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

This species has still not recovered from cold, snowy conditions in March 2018 that reduced the number of breeding pairs, especially in Pembrokeshire, but there was an increase in records from Gower and welcome sightings in Carmarthenshire and Gwent.

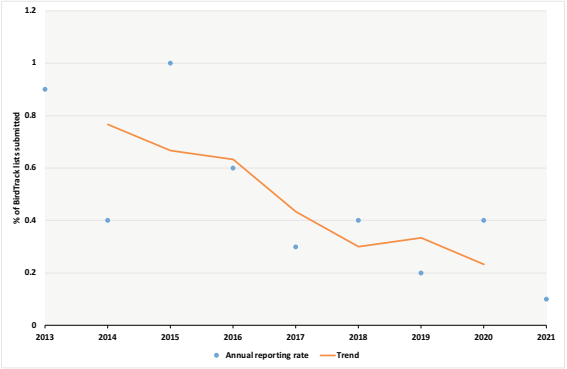
All records: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 20-22 Nov. and again on 29th; GOWER: bred at three sites, present at four others in the breeding season and 1-2 at a further seven sites outside the breeding season on Gower peninsula; one in Neath Port Talbot on 16-17 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: one on 22 Jan. and two on 20 March in the west of the county; PEMBROKE: present at one site from 30 March to 7 Sept., max. three on 23 July; one at St Davids Head on 11 Sept.; CAERNARFON: two at a breeding site in the south of the county on 10 and 30 April.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

Scarce breeding resident and uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**212**	**88**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

BirdTrack reporting rate: Firecrest in Wales 2013-21



The BirdTrack reporting rate is low, and comprises non-breeding birds almost completely. The 2021 rate (0.1%) was only 20% of the 2013-20 mean, but may have been influenced by COVID-19 travel restrictions in January-March.

Breeding season: one confirmed pair, and six territories, far fewer than 17 in 2020, but minimal information received from its Gwent stronghold. GWENT: Beacon Hill near Trellech; E.GLAMORGAN: pair feeding fledged chick at Coed Caesau-whips on 12 June; pair at Coed Caedrys,

Nantgarw in March and The Warren, Caerphilly Common, in May; CEREDIGION: two singing males at Cwm Berwyn on 18 June; RADNOR: male and possible female at Nantmel.

Summary of other records for each county

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT				1		1	1	1	2	
E.GLAMORGAN	2	3	4	1				2		
GOWER			1				2		1	1
CARMARTHEN		2								
PEMBROKE	3	1	2					3	4	2
CEREDIGION	1	1		1			1	2	1	
RADNOR							1			
MONTGOMERY		1								
CAERNARFON	4	4	4+				2	2		1
Bardsey			3				7	2		
ANGLESEY	2	3							1	
DENBIGH		2								

2020 RADNOR: the record in Oct. was not confirmed, the species is a rarity in the county.

2019 GWENT, correction: min. 14 breeding pairs at 12 sites. There were three records in Oct., not two as stated in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* DRYW EURBEN

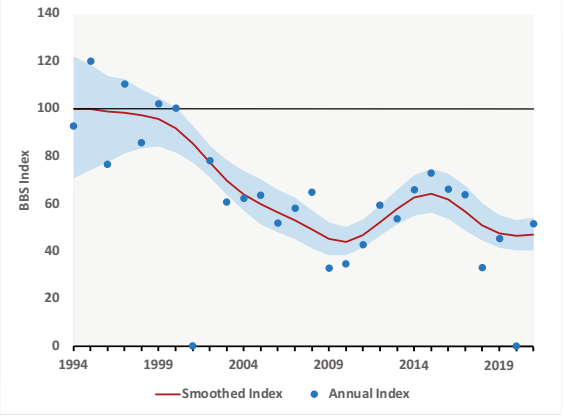
Fairly common resident (85,500 territories), abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2824	2922
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	13%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell by 53% during 1995-2020, resulting in its inclusion as a Red list species of conservation concern. The BirdTrack reporting rate, which includes non-breeding birds, peaked in 2015 (at 21.5% of lists) but has been markedly lower since 2018, the year of the 'Beast from the East' blast of cold weather in early spring.

Counts ≥20: PEMBROKE: 21 on Skokholm on 6 Oct.; CAERNARFON: day max. 45 on Bardsey in March, 25 in April and 78 on 6 Nov.

Breeding Bird Survey: Goldcrest in Wales, 1994-2021



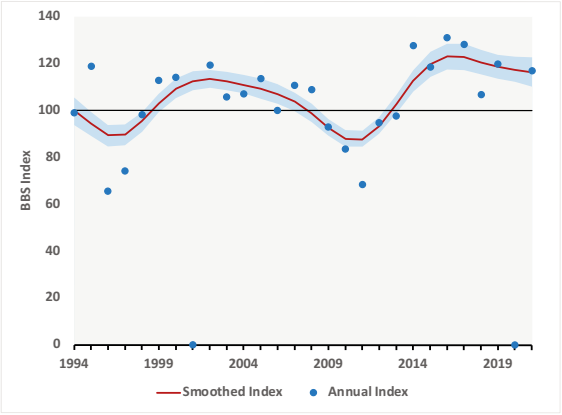
WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* DRYW

Abundant resident up to c.900 metres, and most ubiquitous bird species in Wales (1.3 million territories). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	9826	10741
% of BirdTrack lists	49%	50%

The long-term trend for Wales' most abundant bird remains positive (+24% during 1995-2020). The BirdTrack reporting rate fell markedly between 2017 and 2018 (perhaps an effect of the 'Beast from the East') and has since been recovering slowly but it remains below the 2014-17 mean of 56% of lists.

Breeding Bird Survey: Wren in Wales, 1994-2021



Other notable counts: GWENT: 16 at Llanellen on 16 April and 17 here on 26 May; 16 at Mynydd Islwyn on 27 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 19 at Llanwonno on 21 March and Blackmill on 6 May; 18 at Bryn-carnau on 3 April; 17 at Hendre Lake on 2 May; CARMARTHEN: 107 territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: 20 at Higgon's Well on 30 March; 38 at Haverfordwest on 17 April; 23 at Teifi Marshes on 7 May; 25 at Minwear on 9 June; 25 in the Tavernspite area on 9 Sept.; 33 at Old Mill Grounds, Haverfordwest, on 19 Sept.; BRECON: 20 territories around Yr Allt, Sennybridge; 20+ singing males at WTSWW Ystrad Fawr on 5 June; RADNOR: 20 at RSPB Carngafallt on 7 June; MEIRIONNYDD: 30 at Tan y coed on 28 Feb.; 13 at Ratgoed, Aberllefenni, on 7 March; 34 at Coed Hafod y Llyn on 27 May; 19 at Tal y llyn on 5 Sept.; 20 at Aberllefenni on 30 Oct.; 15 at Corris on 31 Oct.; 11 at Pennal on 19 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 131 singing males on Bardsey in spring, and autumn monthly max. of 59 in Aug., 42 in Sept. and 47 in Oct.; 18 at Mynydd Rhiw on 1 May; 18 in Beddgelert area on 25 Oct.; 20+ at Crimpiau on 29 May; DENBIGH: 15 at Holt on 22 March; 16 at Farndon on 27 June.

Monthly max. on Skokholm, PEMBROKE

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Skokholm		47	61	70	66	52	40	30	45	42	35	

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* DELOR CNAU

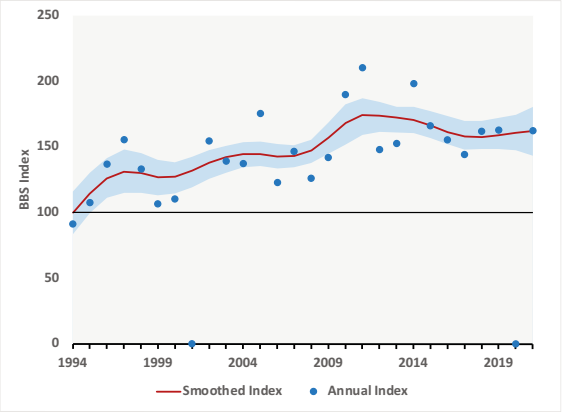
Fairly common and widely distributed resident of mature deciduous and mixed woodland (60,000 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3737	4004
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	18%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been fairly stable since 2011, following 15 years of increase, and is now 41% above its 1995 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate reached a new high in 2021.

GOWER: nine pairs at RSPB Cwm Clydach laid eggs, from which seven pairs fledged 28 young (3.1/nest).

Breeding Bird Survey: Nuthatch in Wales, 1994-2021



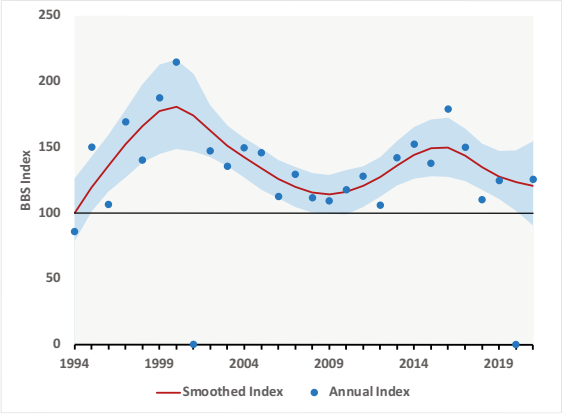
TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* DRINGWR BACH

Fairly common and widespread resident (37,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1171	1255
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fluctuates, much more so than is evident at a UK level, but both indices are stable in the long-term. The BirdTrack reporting rate shows similar stability. A BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate of 7% in January 2021 was the highest peak in any year since 7.1% in January 1995.

Breeding Bird Survey: Treecreeper in Wales, 1994-2021



ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Pastor roseus* DRUDWEN WRIDOG

Scarce migrant from southeast Europe, prone to irruptions in some years. WBRC: 148 previous records.

At least 24 in a year (with another overwintering from 2020) beats the previous record annual total of 18 in 2020, as a result of a second consecutive influx into western Europe, which included at least seven on ANGLESEY and the first record for MONTGOMERY. Two others were mentioned in county reports but not submitted to the WBRC.

All single birds, adults unless stated. GWENT: St Brides on 18-20 June; Sudbrook on 21 June; E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 2 June; Llantwit Major on 22 June; CARMARTHEN: Delta Lakes, Llanelli, on 14 June; PEMBROKE: Hasguard Cross on 5-12 June; Skokholm on 4-7 Aug.; 1CY in a Haverfordwest garden on 1-6 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 9-10 June; MONTGOMERY: Llandyssil on 31 July and 1 Aug.; CAERNARFON: female on Bardsey on 7 June and either a second or two new females here on 10-12th; Morfa Nefyn on 10 June; Llandudno Junction from 16 Sept. for several days; juvenile at Morfa Nefyn on 20-22 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Amlwch Port from autumn 2021 to 22 Feb.; Holyhead on 2 June; Cemaes Bay on 3-4 June; Cemlyn on 5 June (also reported on 8th); Moelfre on 5 June; Tregele on 11-14 June; Valley on 12 and 14 June; juvenile at Amlwch Port on 9-12 Sept.; DENBIGH: Rhos-on-sea from 28 June to 3 July; FLINT: Rhyl on 6 June.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* DRUDWEN

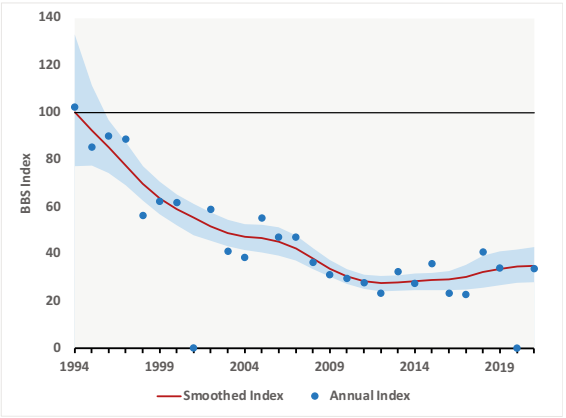
Fairly common resident (90,000 breeding pairs). Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor from eastern Europe. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	6024	5942
% of BirdTrack lists	29%	27%

Breeding: the 63% decline for Wales (1995-2020) is among the highest of any species, but the Breeding Bird Survey smoothed trend has levelled out in the last decade, providing some degree of hope.

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate has remained consistent, between 25% and 29% since 2013. Starling visits to Welsh gardens generally peak in mid-winter, according to the BTO Garden BirdWatch, but the reporting rate has fallen from an average 62.1% in 1995/96-2000/1 to 50.2% of gardens in 2017/18-2021/22. Only one roost was estimated to hold >100,000 birds in the first winter

Breeding Bird Survey: Starling in Wales, 1994-2021



Starling (Dave Parry)

period, but there were three in southern Wales in Nov. and one in the north in Dec.

Large winter flocks/roosts (1000+) in first winter period: GWENT: max. 75,000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 29 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 4000 over Bridgend on 16 Jan.; 2500 over Ely on 7 Feb.; GOWER: *c.*3000 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 8 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*2000 to roost over Newchurch on 26 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 2000 in Angle Bay on 13 Dec.; up to 100,000 to roost at Slebech, near Haverfordwest, in Jan. and Feb.; 2000 at Cashfield on 30 Jan.; 2000 at Castlemartin Corse on 3 Feb.; DENBIGH: 2000 at Coed Bedw, Abergele, on 14 Jan.; 10,000 at Pensarn on 10 Feb.; FLINT: max. 1685 over Clwyd est. on 14 Jan.

In the second winter period: GWENT: max. 100,000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 24 Nov. and up to 50,000 to 19 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 5000 over Hensol Lake on 2 Nov.; 2000 at Flemingston Moor on 25 Oct.; GOWER: 3800 at Landimore saltmarsh on 25 Oct.; max. 12,000 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 21 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 10,000 at Penclacwydd in Nov.; 1000 over Caedelyn Farm, Llanedi, on 27 Nov.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1000 at Teifi Marshes on 17 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 3500 roosted at Aberystwyth Pier on 18 Oct.; 20,000 south over Llanon on 30 Oct.; 100,000 roosted at Gorsgoch in Nov.; BRECON: >7000 at Llangorse Lake on 19 Oct.; max. 100,000 at Tŷ Mawr reedbeds on 24 Nov.; CAERNARFON: max. 3700 at Aberdaron/Mynydd Mawr on 30 Oct.; 4688 at Morfa Aber on 26 Oct.; 1680 at Llanfairfechan on 30 Oct.; max. 10,000 east over Hafan y Môr on 12 Nov., presumed to be roosting at Llyn Ystumllyn; ANGLESEY: 2300 between Cemlyn and Carmel Head on 12 Oct.; max. 300,000 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 18 Dec.; DENBIGH: 3000 at Maengwynedd on 5 Nov.

2019 GWENT: 1000 at Sudbrook on 14 Jan.; in the autumn, roost at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) peaked at 40,000 on 1 Dec.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* BRONFRAITH

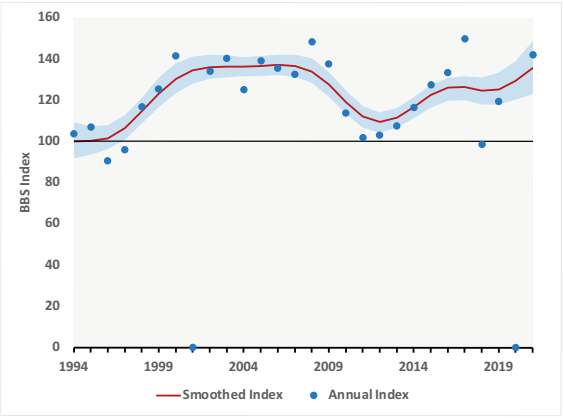
Fairly common and widespread resident (160,000 breeding territories), winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	5833	6510
% of BirdTrack lists	29%	30%

The Breeding Bird Survey trend for Wales has recovered to the level it maintained during the first decade of this century, and is 29% higher than the 1995 baseline, prompting its move to the Green list of conservation concern in Wales. In the shorter-term, the BirdTrack reporting rate has also returned to its 2017 level, after several years of lower reporting. By contrast, the reporting rate in the BTO Garden BirdWatch has fallen over the long-term.

Counts ≥30: E.GLAMORGAN: 50 in Llangynwyd on 7 Oct. and 114 here early on morning of 13 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 47 at

Breeding Bird Survey: Song Thrush in Wales, 1994-2021



Bickny, Llanrhian, on 9 Jan.; max. day counts of 51 on Skokholm on 14 Nov. and 46 on 3 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 31 at Aberdaron on 14 Nov.

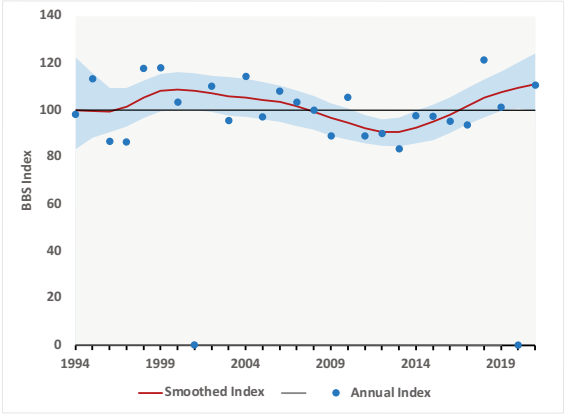
MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* BRYCH COED

Fairly common resident (26,000 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3229	3331
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	15%

The Mistle Thrush trend is broadly similar to that for Song Thrush, with the Breeding Bird Survey index recovering from a small setback in recent years, and now 10% above its 1995 start-point. The BirdTrack reporting rate maintained a level above the 2013-19 mean.

Breeding Bird Survey: Song Thrush in Wales, 1994-2021



Flocks ≥20: GWENT: 20 in Cibi Valley on 21 June; E.GLAMORGAN: 25 over Redway Road, Cardiff, on 5 Aug.; 31 at Cwm Cadlan NNR on 15 Aug.; 30 on Perthcelyn rifle range on 5 Sept.; GOWER: 21 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 13 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 30 at Newchurch on 31 July; 38 at Marros Mountain on 23 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 50 at Joppa on 13 Aug.; CEREDIGION/BRECON: 50 at Trawsnant on 12 Sept.; BRECON: 34 at Defanog church on 30 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: *c.*60 at Llwynderw on 1 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 21 at Mynydd Mawr, Uwchmynydd, on 13 Nov.; >30 at Bwlch-y-ddeufaen on 18 June; *c.*50 at Abergwyngregyn on 16 Aug.; DENBIGH: 31 at Nant Eryrys on 14 June; 22 at Eglwyseg on 9 Oct.

2019 GWENT: 24 at Hafodyrynys on 18 July; 21 at Pentre-poeth on 3 Aug.; 40 over Tredegar Park on 14 Aug.; 22 at Willcrick Hill on 18 Sept.; at least 20 at Pen-y-Glog on 22 Sept.

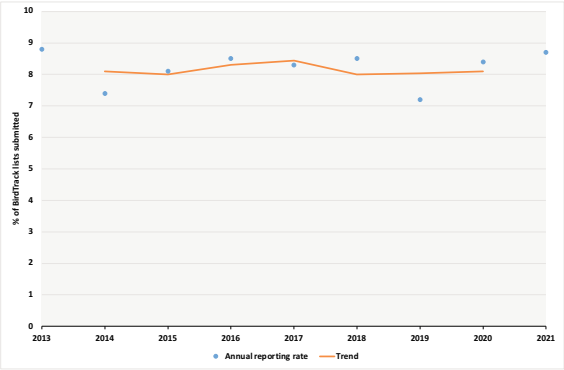
REDWING *Turdus iliacus* COCH DAN ADAIN

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe; particularly numerous in severe winters. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1868	2089
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	9%

The BirdTrack reporting rate is twice that of Fieldfare, perhaps because some wintering birds remain in Wales throughout the season, whereas Fieldfares tend to move on quickly. It has been very consistent during 2013-21. Late October saw large numbers along the GLAMORGAN coast, the biggest counts recorded at Lavernock Pt, and there was also a large count in PEMBROKE in mid-November.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Redwing in Wales 2013-21



Counts ≥120 in the first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 200 at Fford-y-Gyfraith in Jan.; BRECON: 150 near Libanus on 7 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 497 sound-recorded over Bangor on 15 March and 278 here on 23rd; 252 sound-recorded over Penrhyn Bay on 23 March; FLINT: 125 at Rhuddlan on 5 Jan.; 700 at Bagillt Bank on 23 Jan.; 125 at Bagillt on 25 Jan.

Counts ≥120 in the second winter period: GWENT: 510 at Cross Ash on 5 Nov. and 393 here on 6 Nov.; 240 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 5 Nov.; 185 at Blackwood Park on 22 Nov.; 130 at Redwick on 9 Dec.; 160 at Llandenny on 24 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 886 and 234 sound-recorded at Garwnant on nights of 12 and 13 Oct.; 11,500 at Lavernock Pt on 26 Oct., 4300 here on 6 Nov., 3400 on 8th, 9600 on 9th, 23,600 on 12th and 9100 on 16th; 1000+ over Penarth on 26 Oct.; GOWER: 219 at Morriston on 28 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 250 west at Abergorlech on 15 Oct.; 200 SW over Burry Port on 30 Oct.; 250 SE over Salem on 15 Nov.; 150 at Dryslwyn on 21 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 200 on Skokholm on 13 Oct.; 1000 at Teifi Marshes on 5 Nov.; 10,026 over Llanteg on 15 Nov.; 448 at Haverfordwest on 15 Nov.; 1000 at Glynaeron on 17 Nov.; 200 at Llanychaer on 11 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 250+ at Glandyfi on 13 Oct., 130 here on 14th and 140 on 16th; 1000 west at Nant yr Arian and 1200 at Blaenpennal on 14 Oct.; 1200 at Furnace on 18 Oct. and 1500 here on 23rd; 1200 at Machynlleth on 18 Oct.; 379 at Llanon on 30 Oct.; RADNOR: 150 in Elan Valley on 4 Nov.; BRECON: 800 west over Brecon Town on 14 Oct.; 560 SW over Buckland Hill on 18 Oct. and 500/hour SE on 12 Nov.; 5000 SW at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 20 Oct., 400 here on 21st and 1000 on 22nd; 150 at Aberyscir on 23 Oct.; 500 near Dolymynach Res. on 2 Nov.; 160 at Llandefalle Common on 5 Nov.; 400 near WTSWW Y Byddwn on 2-16 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 4100 west near Cefn Coch in 6½ hours on 14 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 610 at Corris on 14 Oct.; 250 at Cwm Cywarch on 16 Oct. and 200 here on 23rd; 200 at Llyn Celyn on 17 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 288 at Mynydd Mawr on 25 Oct. and 135 here on 14 Nov.; 145 at Bangor on 15 Nov.; 160 on Bardsey on 13 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 200 at Mynydd Bodafon on 16 Oct.; 600 at Amlwch Port and 2500 at Cemaes on 5 Nov.; 500 at Talwrn on 15 Nov.; DENBIGH: 138 at Lleweni watermeadows on 8 Nov.; FLINT: 163 over Gwernymynydd on 13 Nov.; 323 at Broughton on 14 Oct.; 316 at Loggerheads CP on 14 Oct. and 164 here on 11 Nov.; 465 at Bagillt Bank on 5 Nov.; 150 in Nercwys Forest on 6 Nov.

Latest and earliest dates in each county

	Latest	*Site*		*Earliest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	5 April	Ystrad Mynach Park		10 Oct.	Blackwood Park
E.GLAMORGAN	14 April	Fforestganol		26 Sept.	Sully
GOWER	15 March	Swansea Vale		12 Oct.	Bishopston
CARMARTHEN	11 March	Kymer's Canal, Kidwelly		6 Oct.	Gelli Aur & Cefneithin
PEMBROKE	1 May	St Brides Bay		13 Oct.	Three sites
CEREDIGION	6 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		12 Oct.	Talybont
RADNOR	22 Feb.	between Hay and Bronydd		8 Oct.	RSPB Carngafallt
BRECON	12 April	Bronllys		**20 Sept.**	**Tirbach, near Crickadarn**
MONTGOMERY	2 April	Llanfyllin		22 Sept.	Sarn
MEIRIONNYDD	25 March	Rhiwbryfdir		9 Oct.	Migneint
CAERNARFON	18 April	Bangor		7 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	**2 May**	**RSPB South Stack**		21 Sept.	Llanfechell
DENBIGH	29 March	Lleweni watermeadows		8 Oct.	Fenn's Moss
FLINT	2 April	Broughton		6 Oct.	Broughton

2019 GWENT, correction: the earliest winter record was at Pentre-poeth on 6 Oct. Additional large counts to those in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019 were 180 on The Blorenge on 21 Oct. and 200 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 17 Nov.

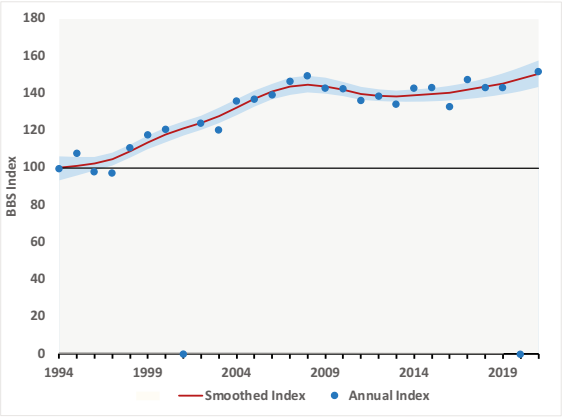
BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* MWYALCHEN

Abundant breeding resident (665,000 pairs), passage migrant and winter visitor from northeast Europe. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	13946	14767
% of BirdTrack lists	68%	68%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales hit a new high, and is 46% above its baseline (1995-2020). The BirdTrack reporting rate has been creeping upwards and it is now the most frequently recorded species, the rate only marginally lower in 2021 than 2020, when more lists from gardens were submitted.

Breeding Bird Survey: Blackbird in Wales, 1994-2021



Large counts ≥30: GWENT: 35 at Osbaston on 1 Jan. and 36 here on 11 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: 47 territories at Penclacwydd; 91 between Penclacwydd and Morfa Bacas on 8 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 41 at Old Mill Grounds, Haverfordwest, on 13 April; 45 at Teifi Marshes on 9 Dec.; BRECON: 30+ along canal between Llangynidr and Glanusk on 31 Jan.; 30+ along R. Usk between Brecon Town and Fennifach on 12 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: 39 at Corris on 31 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 59 at Mynydd Mawr on 13 Nov. and 67 here on 14th; ANGLESEY: *c.*30 at Llanddyfnan on 9 Jan.; DENBIGH: 31 at Holt on 13 Jan.; 32 at Pentrecefn on 17 Jan. and 42 here on 31st; FLINT: 40 at Brickfields NR, Rhyl, on 1 Jan., possibly part of 93 beside the Clwyd est. on the same day, and 38 here on 9th.

2019 GWENT: 44 at Peterstone Gout on 8 Jan.; 49 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 4 Dec.

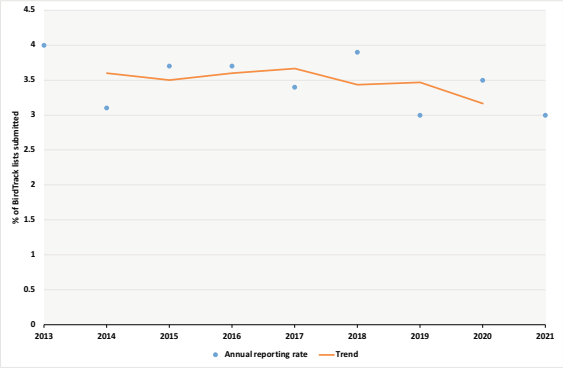
FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* SOCAN EIRA

Winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe in variable numbers; often abundant. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	827	775
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%

The BirdTrack reporting rate has been fairly consistent, although there appear to have been fewer around in 2021.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Fieldfare in Wales 2013-21



Counts ≥120 in the first winter period: BRECON: 200 at Fennifach on 17 March; CEREDIGION: 130 at Cors Caron on 10 March; DENBIGH: 126 at Holt on 6 Jan. and 155 here on 15 Feb.

≥120 in the second winter period: GWENT: 380 at Cross Ash on 4 Nov., 425 here on 5th and 274 on 6th; 130 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 7 Nov. and 250 here on 9th; 740 on Mynydd Llangatwg on 11 Nov. and 500 here on 13th; 130 at Garn Lakes on 20 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 250 at Penywaun on 11 Nov.; max. 790 at Lavernock Pt on 13 Nov.; 300 over Merthyr Mawr NNR on 14 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 250 at Pâl y Cwrt on 11 Nov.; 350 at Ginst Pt on 13 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 200 on Dinas Mountain on 14 Nov.; 234 over Llanteg on 15 Nov.; 400 at Glynaeron on 17 Nov.; 500 at Gilfach Goch on 22 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 500 at Trefenter on 7 Nov.; 700 at Cors Caron on 10 Nov.; 450 at Waun Garthenor on 15 Nov.; BRECON: 170 SW over Crai Res. in 30 minutes on 7 Nov.; 760 at Craig-y-cilau on 11 Nov.; 250 at Usk Res. on 13 and 17 Nov.; RADNOR: *c.*280 on The Begwyns on 13 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 550 west of Cefn Coch on 9 Nov. and 310 here on 11th; MEIRIONNYDD: 500 at Upper Cwm Prysor on 5 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 150 at Penrhyn Bay on 5 Nov. and >500 here on 6th; 370 at Mynydd Mawr on 4 Nov., 180 here on 13th and 900 on 14th; ANGLESEY: 190 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 13 Nov. and 150 here on 21st; DENBIGH: 180 at Garreg Ddu on 4 Nov. and 140 here on 8th; 140 at RSPB Conwy on 6 Nov.; FLINT: 200 in Nercwys Forest on 6 Nov.

Latest and earliest dates in each county.

	Latest	*Site*		*Earliest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	11 April	Newport Wetlands		**14 Sept.**	**Sugar Loaf**
E.GLAMORGAN	17 April	Parc Slip NR		22 Oct.	Shwt
GOWER	7 March	Morfa Tip		5 Nov.	Crymlyn Burrows
CARMARTHEN	16 April	Telpyn Point		30 Oct.	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	21 April	Llanychaer		4 Nov.	Angle Bay
CEREDIGION	7 April	near Talsarn		14 Oct.	Cilcennin
BRECON	12 April	Bronllys		21 Sept.	Llysdinam
RADNOR	19 April	Llanfair Waterdine		16 Oct.	near Llandrindod Wells
MONTGOMERY	1 May	Mochdre		4 Nov.	Trefnant, near Welshpool
MEIRIONNYDD	7 March	Ratgoed, Aberllefenni		15 Oct.	Bwlch Pen, Llandrillo
CAERNARFON	**2 May**	**Bardsey**		30 Oct.	Penrhyn Castle
ANGLESEY	11 May	Cemlyn		25 Oct	Cemaes
DENBIGH	20 April	Garth, Black Wood		16 Oct.	Penycloddiau
FLINT	2 April	Caerwys		2 Nov.	Connah's Quay NR

2019 GWENT: 200 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 7 Jan.; 120 at Skirrid Fach on 15 April.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Uncommon and declining summer visitor to the uplands (444-457 breeding pairs) and passage migrant on coast. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**99**	**170**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

There is no Breeding Bird Survey trend for Wales, but the UK trend shows an impressive 36% increase in the medium-term (2010-20). The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales is, not unsurprisingly, low and includes passage migration that can vary considerably between years. The 2021 rate is identical (0.3%) to that in 2016-19.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	13 April	Trefil Quarries		22 Oct.	Mynydd Llangatwg
E.GLAMORGAN	2 April	Dare Valley CP		15 Sept.	Ogmore estuary
GOWER	no spring records			29 Oct.	Broughton Bay
CARMARTHEN	1 April	Garreg Lwyd		8 Nov.	Morfa Bacas
PEMBROKE	2 April	Skomer		29 Oct.	Rosebush
CEREDIGION	25 March	Pontrydfendigaid		12 Sept.	Carreg Clochdy
BRECON	24 March	Senni Valley		**23 Nov.***	**The Cwm**
RADNOR	no spring records			13 Nov.	Elan Valley
MONTGOMERY	**28 Feb.**	**Old Churchstoke**		no autumn records	
MEIRIONNYDD	9 April	Arenig Fawr		30 Oct.	Aberllefenni
CAERNARFON	17 March	Great Orme		20 Nov.	Dinorwig quarry
ANGLESEY	14 April	RAF Valley		8 July	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	31 March	Minera Quarry & Llantysilio Mountain		15 Nov.	Trefnant
FLINT	13 April	Penycloddiau		no autumn records	

*not including a possible overwintering bird at Pen-cribarth, BRECON, on 26 Dec.

The first in MONTGOMERY was the earliest county record this century by 27 days (*cf*. 27 March 2017) and the first in CAERNARFON was a day earlier than one on Bardsey on 18 March 2003. The record at Morfa Bacas on 8 Nov. was five days later than the latest CARMARTHEN record this century, in 2015. The last in DENBIGH was 17 days later than one on 29 Oct. 2018 and the last record (of 2-3 birds) in CAERNARFON was four days later than in 2014.

Single breeding territory/singing male unless stated: CARMARTHEN: Pâl y cwrt, Herbert's Quarry and Llyn y Fan Fach in April; near headwaters of R. Clydach, Mynydd Du, in May; CEREDIGION: Cwm Doethie; MONTGOMERY: RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MWT Glaslyn; BRECON: bred at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad NNR; six other possible breeding sites; MEIRIONNYDD:

10 sites, with fledged juveniles at Arenig Fawr on 22 May; CAERNARFON: 16 sites in the Carneddau, with breeding confirmed at Bwlch-y-ddeufaen; 2+ pairs and breeding confirmed in Nant Ffrancon; five sites in the Glyderau, including two pairs on Moel y Ci; in the Snowdon range, on Moel Eilio and Mynydd Mawr, and two at Craig y Bera on 30 Aug.

Passage of ≥10 birds: CAERNARFON: 10+ in Nant Ffrancon on 11 April and 12 here on 13th.

2019 GWENT: singing male and female at a site in the north of the county on 30 April, and a probable female here on 5 May.

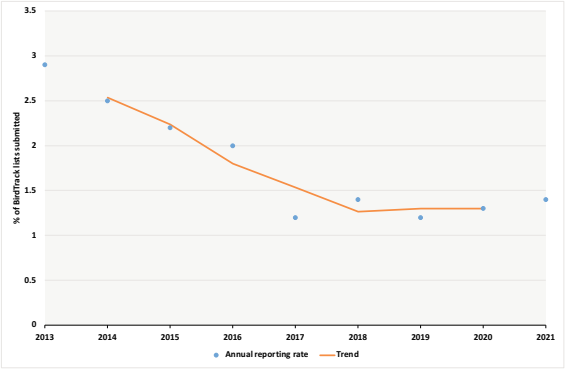
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Uncommon and declining summer visitor (5700 breeding territories). Locally common passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	359	436
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

The UK Breeding Bird Survey index has hit another new low, down 63% during 1995-2020, but Spotted Flycatchers occur on too few survey squares in Wales to produce a trend here. The BirdTrack reporting rate fell sharply during 2013-17, but has since been more consistent.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Spotted Flycatcher in Wales 2013-21



Breeding: GWENT: nested at nine sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at four sites, probably at five and possibly at a further nine; GOWER: bred at Rhyslyn/Afan Argoed and Margam Park, and probably at three sites; CARMARTHEN: present at 9+ sites but only one confirmed breeding, at Felingwmisaf; PEMBROKE: bred at five sites and present at another 31; CEREDIGION: present at 24 sites; BRECON: 1-3 pairs bred at 16 sites, including in old Grey Wagtail nests at Llysdinam and Llanfilo; MONTGOMERY: nested at Newchapel and Dylife; MEIRIONNYDD: present at 14 sites, breeding confirmed at Coed Ganllwyd; CAERNARFON: bred at Caerhun and seen at 12 other sites; DENBIGH: bred at three sites.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

				Latest	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	4 May	Pant-y-Goitre		15 Sept.	The Blorenge
E.GLAMORGAN	3 May	Wenvoe		21 Sept.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	6 May	Crymlyn Bog		18 Sept.	No location provided
CARMARTHEN	9 May	Nant Dyfatty & Burry Port		16 July	Felingwmisaf
PEMBROKE	2 May	Little Milford & Sychbant		**23 Oct.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	26 April	RSPB Ynys-hir		3 Oct.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	2 May	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl		20 Sept.	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	13 May	Nantmel		1 Sept.	Cwmdu
MONTGOMERY	**24 April**	**Y Garth, near Machynlleth**		10 Sept.	Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	14 May	Cwm Cywarch		29 July	Coed y brenin
CAERNARFON	30 April	Bardsey		12 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	2 May	RSPB South Stack		10 Sept.	Holyhead & Rhoscolyn
DENBIGH	13 May	Coed Hafod		20 Sept.	Bodnant Garden
FLINT	15 May	St Asaph		26 Aug.	Spon Green

The first in MONTGOMERY was the earliest in the county this century by seven days (*cf*. 1 May 2015) and the last DENBIGH record was the latest in the county by four days (*cf*. 16 Sept. 2009).

Notable passage counts: PEMBROKE: 20 on Skomer on 24 Aug. and 22 here on 10 Sept.; 21 on Skokholm on 10 Sept.; CAERNARFON: max. 20 on Bardsey on 28 May and 49 on 2 Sept.

2020 E.GLAMORGAN: one at Boverton on 1 Oct. was the last of the year.

2019 GWENT: five pairs bred at four sites and possibly at a further eight.

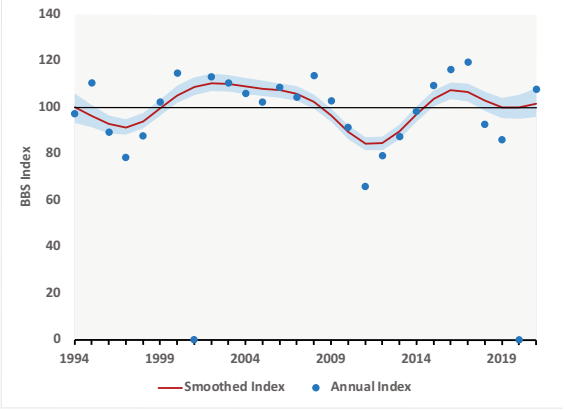
ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* ROBIN GOCH

Abundant and widespread resident (905,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	13492	13970
% of BirdTrack lists	67%	65%

Despite fluctuations, populations measured by the Breeding Bird Survey are stable in the long-term, and although the BirdTrack reporting rate fell back from its 2020 high when more lists were submitted from gardens, it was above the 2013-20 mean.

Breeding Bird Survey: Robin in Wales, 1994-2021



Large counts ≥20 likely to be on passage: E.GLAMORGAN: 39 at Kenfig NNR on 3 April; PEMBROKE: 83 on Skomer on 21 Sept.; max. 82 on Skokholm on 22 Sept., 85 here on 11 Oct. and 50 on 2 Nov.; 28 at Angle Bay on 17 Oct.; 32 at Sprinkle Pill on 15 Oct.; 58 at Old Mill Grounds, Haverfordwest, on 14 Nov.; CAERNARFON: max. 20 on Bardsey in Aug., 29 in Sept. and 29 in Oct.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* EOS

Former breeder, now scarce migrant. WBRC: 124 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one ringed on Skokholm on 30 April.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus* CYNFFONLAS YSTLYSGOCH

Very rare visitor from Russia and Fennoscandia. BBRC: five previous records.

PEMBROKE: one ringed on Skokholm on 11 Oct.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* GWYBEDOG BRONGOCH

Scarce visitor, usually in autumn, from Scandinavia and eastern Europe. WBRC: 179 previous records.

CAERNARFON: male on Bardsey on 9 Oct.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* GWYBEDOG BRITH

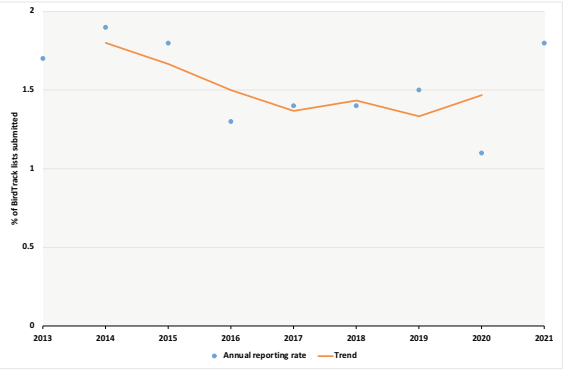
Locally fairly common but declining summer visitor in most mainland counties (15,000-19,000 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed (Red prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	339	505
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

The UK Breeding Bird Survey showed an 18% fall between 2019 and 2021, and a reduction of 53% in the long-term (1995-2020). The species does not occur in sufficient BBS squares to generate a trend for Wales, even though we hold the majority of the UK population. After lower reporting on BirdTrack in 2020, this year saw the highest rate since 2015, but this may have been influenced by more of us wanting to enjoy being in Welsh woodlands and seeing Pied Flycatchers.

Wet weather in May resulted in the average date of nesting being several days later than average and nest productivity varied greatly between sites. For the available 461 attempts in nest-boxes listed below, 1748 young were ringed, a

BirdTrack reporting rate: Pied Flycatcher in Wales 2013-21



mean of 3.79/nest (*cf*. 5.92 in 2020 and 4.14 in 2019).

Other selected breeding records: GWENT: bred in St Mary's Vale; at least three pairs bred in Strawberry Cottage Wood; E.GLAMORGAN: possibly bred at three sites; GOWER: pair bred at Cwm Gwrelych, Glynneath; CARMARTHEN: bred at Dolgoy Farm, Cynwyl Elfed, and at Felinycoed, Taliaris; PEMBROKE: 16 pairs at five sites; CEREDIGION: 25 singing males at five sites; BRECON: 123 singing males in the county, including in Llanwrthwl where there were 27 at Rhiw and 22 at The Cwm (here only six young fledged due to predation by Stoats and mice); MONTGOMERY: 29 young fledged from a garden near Llanidloes; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at four sites, including Coed-y-Parc where 20 males sang on 29 May; probable or possible breeding at 28 sites, including 10 birds at Llanbedr on 5 June; CAERNARFON: 1-6 birds in many woodlands, including 12 at Tŷ Hyll on 21 April; DENBIGH: bred at four sites.

Site, county	*Pairs*	*Young ringed*	*Young/nest*	*Young/nest (year)*
Cwm Clydach, GOWER	16	79	4.9	3.6 (2019)
Halfway, CARMARTHEN			*5.1	*6.8 (2019)
Cynghordy, CARMARTHEN			5.1	6.0 (2019)
RSPB Gwenffrwd-Dinas, CARMARTHEN	185	585	3.16	5.8 (2019)
Coed Nant Brân, BRECON	30	118	**3.93	**5.3 (2020)
Cefn Llwyni, MONTGOMERY	18	103	5.72	
Allt Goch, MONTGOMERY	14	66	4.7	
RSPB Lake Vyrnwy, MONTGOMERY	105	409	3.9	4.2 (2019)
Conwy Valley, DENBIGH	17	69	4.06	4.1 (2019)
Glyn Arthur, DENBIGH	23	40	1.74	4.0 (2019)
Prion, DENBIGH	31	176	5.68	4.3 (2019)
Glyn Ceiriog, DENBIGH	22	103	4.68	

*figure cited is average per successful nest; **estimate of number fledged.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	11 April	Osbaston		10 Sept.	Christchurch
E.GLAMORGAN	14 April	WTSWW Coed-y-Bedw		5 Sept.	Dunraven
GOWER	2 April	Cwm Clydach		9 Oct.	Mewslade/Middleton
CARMARTHEN	4 April	Taliaris		6 July	Allt Rhyd y Groes
PEMBROKE	10 April	Llanychaer		**11 Oct.**	**Skokholm**
CEREDIGION	31 March	RSPB Ynys-hir		19 July	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	31 March	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl		16 Aug.	The Cwm, Llanwrthwl
RADNOR	4 April	Cwmdu		no autumn records	
MONTGOMERY	**30 March**	**Allt Goch, near Llanidloes**		19 July	Cwm-y-Wydden
MEIRIONNYDD	31 March	Cwm Cywarch		no autumn records	
CAERNARFON	4 April	Llyn Dinas		24 Sept.	Great Orme
ANGLESEY	no spring records			10 Sept.	Holyhead
DENBIGH	4 April	Llanerch yr Aur		13 Aug.	Minera
FLINT	4 April	Rhydymwyn		no autumn	

Three counties recorded their first of the year four days ahead of the earliest in their recording area this century (*cf*. 6 April 2012 in GOWER, 3 April 2014 in BRECON, and 8 April 2004 and 2020 in FLINT).

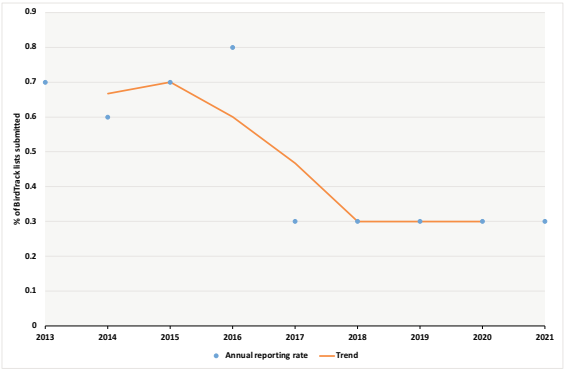
2019 GWENT: five breeding pairs and possible breeding at four other sites.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* TINGOCH DU

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Occasional breeder – RBBP: one territory in 2019. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	246	319
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

BirdTrack reporting rate: Black Redstart in Wales 2013-21



The BirdTrack reporting rate is low, reflecting this species' scarcity in Wales. Most records are outside the breeding season so lockdown may have reduced reports in January to March 2021. Nonetheless, the rate has been very consistent in the last five years, though somewhat lower than in 2013-16.

Breeding season: CAERNARFON: breeding not confirmed but a juvenile on the Great Orme on 23 July followed records of up to three adults here on 7-18 April, and local birders suspect that breeding was a possibility.

First winter period/spring passage, single birds unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 3 and 15 Jan.; Pontypool on 9-10 Jan.; Duckpool Road, Newport, on 14-28 Feb.; Peterstone Wentlooge on 14 March; Trefil Quarries on 24 March; E.GLAMORGAN: Aberthaw Power Station from 1 Jan. to 8 March and two here on 18 Feb.; Monknash on 17 Jan.; Sully Bay on 21 Jan.; Rumney Great Wharf on 25 Jan. and four dates in March; Cardiff Civic Centre on 6 Feb.; Southerndown on 8 Feb. and 4 March; Ogmore on 13 March; Flat Holm on 7-8 March and 20 April; Gilfach Farm, Llanngynwydd, on 5 March; Llantrisant on 7 April; Barry Dock on 28 April; GOWER: 1-2 at Pennard Cliffs from 8 Jan. to 7 Feb.; Aberavon on 6-7 Jan.; Swansea on 4 March; CARMARTHEN: overwintered in Lakefield area of Llanelli; Tywyn Bach on 27-30 March; PEMBROKE: Haverfordwest from 1 Jan. to 18 Feb.; Trwyn Llwyd on 9 Jan.; St Davids on 7 and 14 Jan.; Tenby on 1 and 25 Jan.; Carn Fran on 3-9 Feb.; Valero Refinery on 4 Feb.; two at Dinas on 9 Feb.; Goodwick on 9-28 Feb.; Hakin on 17 Feb.; Broad Haven on 26 Feb. and two here on 13 March; Skomer on 6 March, two on 30th and one on 30 May; Pembroke Docks on 15-22 March; Strumble Head on 28 March; Dale Airfield on 4 April; Skokholm on 2 May; CEREDIGION: Dolybont on 11 Jan.; Aberystwyth on 31 Jan.; Pontrhydfendigaid on 3-23 April and two here on 4th; Llanrhystud on 23 April; BRECON: St John's Court, Brecon, on 1 March; Tŷ Mawr Farm, Llangasty, on 5 April; Brechfa Pool on 28 April; MEIRIONNYDD: Aberdysynni on 15 Jan.; CAERNARFON: two in Llandudno from 1 Jan. to 14 March; Great Orme on 12 Jan.; Llanfairfechan from 27 Jan. to 1 Feb.; Morfa Madryn/Glan-y-môr Elias on 1 Feb.; Porthmadog from 20 Jan. to 27 Feb.; Mynydd y Gwyddel on 17 March; Penrhyn Bay on 23 March; Bardsey on 21 March, two here on three dates and four on 30th; Morfa Aber on 23 April; Bangor on 2 May; Aberdaron on 7 May; ANGLESEY: two at Amlwch Port on several dates from 1 Jan. to 30 April; Pt Lynas on 1 Jan.; Beaumaris from 10 Jan., to 17 Feb.; Trearddur Bay on 23-25 Jan.; Porth Dafarch on 9 Feb.; RSPB South Stack on 24 March; The Range on 9 May; DENBIGH: Minera on 28 March; Aled Isaf Res. on 4 and 9 April; Hiraethog Trail on 14 April; FLINT: Holywell on 6 April.

Autumn passage/second winter period: GWENT: Peterstone Wentlooge on 7 Nov.; Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 19 and 21 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: Llwyn-on Res. on dates from 11 Aug. to 6 Sept.; Aberthaw Power Station on 3 and 12 Oct., and 5 Nov.; North Cornelly on 18 Oct.; Cardiff Bay barrage on 21 and 26 Oct.; Porthcawl on 23 Nov.; Sully on 29 Nov.; Nash Pt on 11 Dec.; Penywaun on 14 Dec.; three at Porth Teigr, Cardiff Bay, on 11-31 Dec.; GOWER: Mewslade Valley on 21 Oct.; Pwll du Head on 2 Nov.; Rotherslade on 21 Nov.; Aberavon on 25 Nov.; Swansea Bay on 28 Dec.; Crymlyn Burrows on 28 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Burry Port Harbour on 30 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 8-11 Oct.; three on Skomer on 25 and 30 Oct.; Gann est. on 29 Oct.; St Brides on 16-17 Oct.; Bluestone on 22 Oct.; St Brides on 5 Nov.; two at Broad Haven on 7 Nov.; Tenby on 8 Nov.; St Florence and Coppet Hall on 13 Nov.; Haverfordwest on 16 Nov.; Stackpole from 16 Nov. to 3 Dec.; two males at Sutton on 4 and 22 Dec.; Solva on 10 Dec.; Porthysgi on 11 Dec.; Llanychaer on 12-19 Dec.; Pembroke Dock on 21 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Aberaeron on 7 Nov.; Aberystwyth on 8 Nov.; Cardigan on 16-17 Nov.; New Quay on 17 Nov.; Aberporth on 29 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: Llyn Clywedog on 15 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Pennal on 30 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 28-29 June, found dead on 3 July, others here on 20 July, two on 9 Oct., one on 11th and on four dates from 20th to 25th; Great Orme on 17 Sept. and 22 Oct.; Little Orme on 20 Nov. and two here on 25th; Craigside, Llandudno, on 21 Oct. and a different bird on 14-16 Dec.; Aberdaron on 21 and 30 Oct., and nearby on 3 Nov. and 19 Dec.; Porth Meudwy on 29 Oct.; Penrhyn Mawr on 30 Oct.; Morfa Nefyn on 27 Dec.; ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack on 17 Oct.; Beaumaris on 20 Oct.; three on Holyhead Mountain on 21 Oct.; Pt Lynas on 3 Nov.; Holyhead on 6 and 22 Nov.; Amlwch Port on 13 Nov.; west of Cemlyn on 13 Nov.; two at Plas

Newydd on 21 Nov.; Moelfre on 4 Dec.; Silver Bay, Rhoscolyn, on 5 Dec.; Benllech on 29 Dec.; DENBIGH: Rhos-on-Sea on 10 July.

2019 GWENT, correction: three different individuals were at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) in the first winter period: one from 2018 to 11 Jan., one on 2-22 Feb., with a second bird here on 14th. Additional to the autumn record published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019 were singles at Abertillery on 4 Sept. and Big Pit, Blaenavon, on 2 Nov.

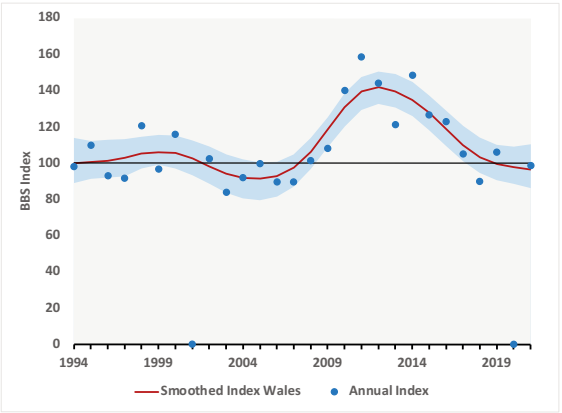
REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* TINGOCH

Fairly common summer visitor in deciduous woodland and upland ffridd (50,500 breeding pairs), but scarce in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire. Passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**526**	**709**
% of BirdTrack lists	**2%**	**3%**

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell 23% during 2015-20 following several years of increase at the start of the decade, and is now down 3% in the long-term (1995-2020). The BirdTrack reporting rate has been similar each year since 2017, but was higher this year than 2020, when fewer visits to rural woodlands were possible during travel restrictions in spring.

Breeding Bird Survey: Redstart in Wales, 1994-2021



Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	2 April	Christchurch, Newport		12 Sept.	Peterstone Wentlooge
E.GLAMORGAN	**31 March**	**Cosmeston Lakes CP**		29 Sept.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	17 April	Cilfrew		29 Sept.	Whiteford Point
CARMARTHEN	3 April	Llansadwrn		4 July	Pâl y Cwrt
PEMBROKE	10 April	Llanychaer		**10 Oct.**	**Dale Airfield**
CEREDIGION	1 April	Clarach		18 Sept.	Bryn Llwyd
BRECON	10 April	near Llangattock		15 Sept.	upper Collwyn valley
RADNOR	13 April	near Llanbister		no autumn records	
MONTGOMERY	4 April	near Berriew		27 Aug.	Corndon Hill, Churchstoke
MEIRIONNYDD	2 April	Parc Bodynlliw		30 July	Dolgellau
CAERNARFON	1 April	Great Orme		7 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	20 April	Cemlyn		9 Sept.	RSPB South Stack
DENBIGH	2 April	Corwen & Minera Quarry		24 Aug.	Eglwyseg
FLINT	10 April	Hendy Ponds		27 Aug.	Rhydymwyn

The first of the year in GWENT was one day ahead of the previous earliest in the county this century (*cf.* 3 April 2011) and that in DENBIGH was four days earlier (*cf.* 6 April 2017).

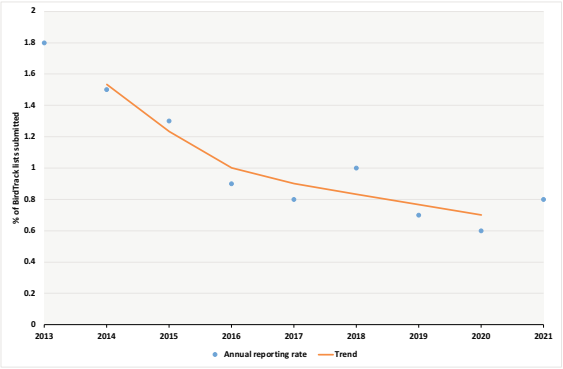
WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* CREC YR EITHIN

Localised and declining summer visitor, breeding in upland areas (2825 pairs in 2013). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**170**	**292**
% of BirdTrack lists	**<1%**	**<1%**

The UK Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen by 57% since 1995, but been very stable since 2010. No trend can be generated for Wales as the species is already too scarce. The increase in BirdTrack reporting this year compared to 2020 is unsurprising given the limited access to the uplands for many people in spring and early summer that year. Perhaps more surprising is that while the BirdTrack rates have fallen slowly during spring and the breeding season, the annual change is most strongly driven by the autumn (1 Aug.-15 Oct.) reporting rate.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Whinchat in Wales 2013-21



Breeding: GWENT: bred at St Mary's Vale and probably at four other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Cwm Cadlan NNR and possibly at five other locations; GOWER: probably bred at Cwm Nant-y-Fedw; PEMBROKE: bred at Brynberian Moor; three males at Eithbed Fach on 21 June; CEREDIGION: widely reported, including 16 males in Cwm Doethie on 1 June, six singing males in Cwm Brefi and seven at Cors Caron; BRECON: min. 31 singing males or territories including seven in Rhiwnant valley, four at Crai Res. and three on Esgair Garthen; MONTGOMERY: 20+ pairs at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; bred at Pistyll Rhaeadr; MEIRIONNYDD: present at 14 sites; CAERNARFON: eight potential breeding sites; DENBIGH: bred at four sites; territories at 20+ other sites.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	17 April	Newport Wetlands		26 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	**3 April**	**Cwm Cadlan NNR**		**13 Oct.**	**Cosmeston Lakes CP**
GOWER	9 May	Bracelet Bay		20 Sept.	Port Eynon
CARMARTHEN	no spring records			22 Sept.	Telpyn Point
PEMBROKE	18 April	Marloes		22 Sept.	Martin's Haven
CEREDIGION	24 April	Tregaron		18 Sept.	Cors Caron
BRECON	19 April	Maen Llia		15 Sept.	Mynydd Illtyd
RADNOR	2 May	Hengwm Hill		15 Aug.	Upper Lundy
MONTGOMERY	16 April	Llyn Mawr, near Clatter		30 July	Pistyll Rhaeadr
MEIRIONNYDD	19 April	Cwm Maethion		21 Sept.	Arthog
CAERNARFON	11 April	Mynydd Llandygai		10 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	20 April	Cemlyn		13 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	18 April	near Bodfari		27 Sept.	Moel y Gamelin
FLINT	18 April	Caerwys		7 Sept.	Moel Arthur

The last of the year in DENBIGH was 14 days later than the previous latest this century (*cf.* 13 Sept. 2019).

Notable passage (10+ birds): PEMBROKE: 16 on Skomer on 7 Sept.

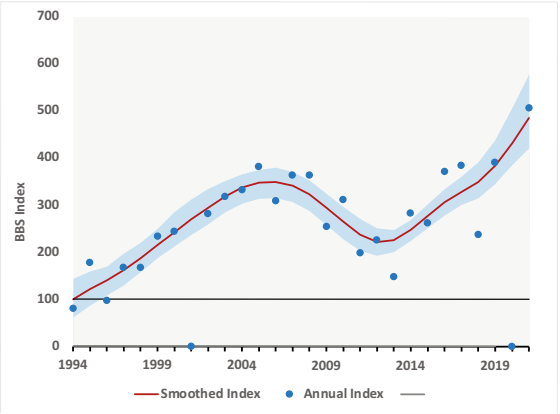
2019 GWENT: breeding records from five sites, including four territories on The Blorenge and 12 east of Bal Bach ridge.

STONECHAT *Saxicola rubicola* CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Fairly common resident (12,082 pairs in 2013) in uplands and coastal heath, though numbers vary as a result of winter and spring weather. More widespread in winter. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**3232**	**3491**
% of BirdTrack lists	**14%**	**14%**

Breeding Bird Survey: Stonechat in Wales, 1994-2021



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new high in 2021, for the third consecutive year. The long-term upward trend (256% during 1995-2020) is the highest of any passerine in Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate shows more inter-annual variation, but in 2021 was just above the 2013-20 mean.

Large spring counts/passage: GOWER: 16 at Margam Moors on 21 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 20 at St Anne's Head on 3 April; 20 south of Whitesands on 5 May; 20 at Vachelich on 16 May.

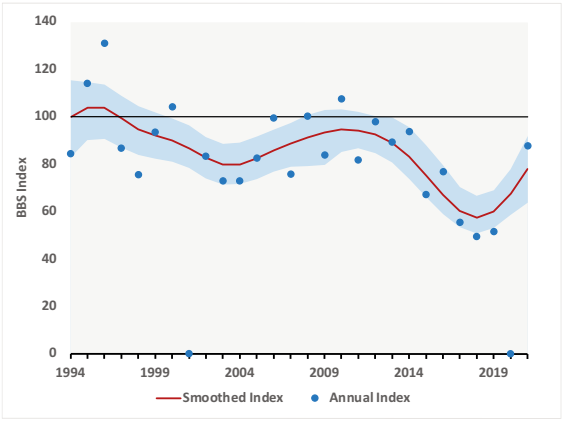
Autumn passage: E.GLAMORGAN: 16 above Porth on 14 Sept.; 11 at Sker Farm on 17 Sept.; GOWER: 15 at Margam Moors on 5 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 20 at Traeth Marloes on 28 Aug.; 20 at Dale Airfield on 14 and 29 Sept.; 20 at Porthmelgan on 15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 29 on Mynydd Mawr on 22 Aug.; 20 on Mynydd Anelog on 24 Aug.; 20 on Bardsey on 5 Sept. and 22 here on 10th; 12 on the Great Orme on 17 Sept.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* TINWEN Y GARN

Fairly common summer visitor, chiefly around upland pasture (13,759 breeding pairs). Abundant passage migrant. Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1108	1779
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	6%

Breeding Bird Survey: Wheatear in Wales, 1994-2021



We have expressed real concern in recent years about the speedy decline in the Breeding Bird Survey trend, which in 2019 was 48% below its 1995 level, all of which has occurred since 2010. The annual index in 2021 was 70% above that in 2019, reducing the long-term deficit to 35% but still enough to justify its addition to the Amber list of conservation concern in Wales. We can only speculate about whether fewer human visitors to Welsh mountains in 2020 may have aided nesting productivity, leading to more birds returning in 2021. The BirdTrack reporting rate (6.4%) was the highest since 2016, but may have been influenced by the 'staycation' spike of more people on holiday in Britain during summer 2021. Gower and Ceredigion join three other counties in having recorded Wheatear in February this century.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

	Earliest	Site		Latest	Site
GWENT (provisional)	14 March	Peterstone & St Brides		16 Oct.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	**27 Feb.**	**Southerndown**		23 Oct.	Rumney Great Wharf
GOWER	28 Feb.	Mynydd Brombil		11 Oct.	Whiteford Sands
CARMARTHEN	18 March	Telpyn Point		9 Oct.	Ginst Point
PEMBROKE	28 Feb.	Ramsey		**2 Nov.**	**Gann estuary**
CEREDIGION	28 Feb.	Clettwr		9 Oct.	Gwbert
BRECON	24 March	Mynydd Illtyd & Capel-y-ffin		8 Oct.	Llangorse
RADNOR	6 March	The Begwyns		2 Sept.	Pool Hill
MONTGOMERY	30 March	Garreg-hir, near Carno		4 Oct.	Banc Du, near Llangurig
MEIRIONNYDD	31 March	Llyn Cau		15 Oct.	Penllyn, Tywyn
CAERNARFON	17 March	Llanberis & Uwchmynydd		**2 Nov.**	**Porth Neigwl**
ANGLESEY	16 March	RSPB South Stack		25 Oct.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	25 March	Esclusham Mountin		20 Oct.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	23 March	Clwyd estuary		9 Oct.	Connah's Quay NR

The first in Gower was 10 days ahead of the previous earliest this century (*cf*. 10 March 2003, 2009 and 2014), that in CEREDIGION was one day earlier (*cf*. 1 March 2017 and 2019) and the one in RADNOR was four days ahead of the earliest in the county since 2000 (*cf*. 10 March 2010).

Spring passage counts ≥10: GWENT: 10 at St Brides on 22 April; GOWER: 11 below Mynydd Carnllechart on 10 Aprll; PEMBROKE: 20 at Deer Park on 14 April; 42 at Pencarnan on 16 April; 18 on Dale Airfield on 16 April (many considered to be of the Greenland race); 24 on Ramsey on 5 May; max. day count of 122 on Skokholm in April; CEREDIGION: 27 on 21 April; 15 on 30 April; BRECON: 10+ on Mynydd Llangatwg on 2 April; 16 along 6km of R. Arban Elan on 25 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 on Migneint on 11 April; 11 at Moel Ysgyfarnogod on 13 April; 13 on Talsarnau saltings on 15 April; 14 at Penllyn and 10 at Craig yr Aderyn on 23 April; 11 at Ynys on 25 April; 28 at Broadwater on 25 April; CAERNARFON: 53 on the Great Orme on 20 April, 31 here on 24th and 37 on 25th; *c*.30 in Nant Ffrancon on 11 April; max. day count 51 on Bardsey on 14 April; ANGLESEY: 52 at Cemlyn on 30 March, 10 here on 25th, 40 on 26th and 30 between here and Carmel Head on 1 May; 10 at Rhosneigr on 2 May; 11 at Cemaes on 10 May; 102 at Carmel Head on 11 May; 30 at Cemlyn on 13 May.

Autumn passage counts ≥10: GWENT: 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 3 and 12 Sept.; 12 at Undy on 3 Sept.; GOWER: 10 at Neath est. on 14 Sept.; 12 at Weobley on 19 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 20 at Dale Airfield on 2 and 16 Sept.; max. day count 65 on Skokholm in Sept.; CEREDIGION: 11 at Llanrhystud on 5 Sept.; BRECON: 10+ on Hay Bluff on 6 Sept.; 20+ on Lord Hereford's Knob on 10 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 near Trawsfynydd on 14 Aug.

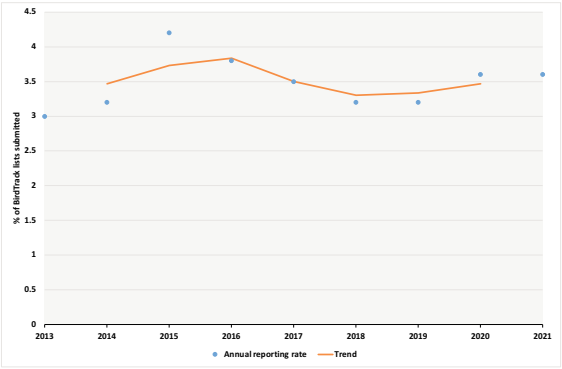
2019 GWENT: 20 at Trefil Quarries on 13 April; 10+ at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 5 Sept. and 17 here on 9th; 15 at Cold Harbour Pill on 13 Sept.; a very late bird was at Magor Marsh on 4 Dec., five days short of the latest ever county record.

***O.o. leucorhoa* (Greenland Wheatear / Tinwen y Garn yr Ynys Las)**
Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: two at Sker Farm on 16 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Dale Airfield on 16 April; up to four by Gann est. during 11-25 April, one on 10 May and two here on 14-15th; CEREDIGION: three at Llanrhystud on 19 April, 27 on 21st, 15 on 30th and five on 8 May; BRECON: three at Brechfa Pool on 28 April; Waun Rydd bog, Llanwrtyd Wells, on 17 May; DENBIGH: two at RSPB Conwy on 22 May; FLINT: Flint on 24 April; near Caerwys on 7 May.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* BRONWEN Y DWR

Fairly common resident of fast flowing streams, particularly in hill areas (1150-4050 breeding pairs). In winter, upland birds move downstream. Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

BirdTrack reporting rate: Dipper in Wales 2013-21



The Waterways Breeding Bird Survey trend for the UK shows a steady decline since 1995, by 23% to 2020, although the 2021 index was a marginal improvement. There is no index for Wales. Site occupation was limited by the cold April and productivity by high water levels resulting from heavy rain in May.

Selected breeding season records: GWENT: widespread but many traditional sites were unoccupied in the lower Wye catchment; five pairs bred successfully on R. Honddu and five along R. Monnow with a failed attempt by one pair; four pairs on R. Angidy and just one pair on R. Trothy and White Brook; max. 24 birds on R. Rhymney and 32 on R. Ebbw in Feb. to April; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 14 sites including R. Thaw, Ely, Rhymney and Ogmore; possibly bred at 13 other sites; from 16 pairs in The Valleys monitored by Fledgemore NRG, 41 young fledged (2.75/nest, *cf*. 2.89 in 2019); GOWER: bred at 13 sites and probably at four other sites; CARMARTHEN: 12 nests found; many sites unoccupied or were occupied only after mid-April; PEMBROKE: bred at five sites; BRECON: bred at five sites but only two fledged young; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding confirmed only at Lower Tryweryn but probable at more than seven other locations; CAERNARFON: six nest sites on R. Conwy catchment; 23 territories or nests elsewhere; DENBIGH: bred at World's End, on R. Ceiriog near Chirk and at Ruthin weir; probably bred at six other sites; FLINT: bred at Dyserth waterfall and Ysceifiog Res.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* GOLFAN MYNYDD

Declining and localised resident, with a patchy distribution (200-325 breeding pairs). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	20	13
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Bird reports confirmed breeding in BRECON and ANGLESEY, and suggest it was quite likely in MONTGOMERY, but there were no records from CARMARTHEN.

All records, singles unless stated: BRECON: colony at Lower Chapel "in good health" with min. five at garden feeders in the first winter period; one in Garthbrengy on several dates in winter; RADNOR: two south of Wern on 15 July; MONTGOMERY: two at a feeder in Sarn on 3 Jan.; two near Arddleen on 24 Jan.; Llyn Mawr on 16 April; 3-7 in a Churchstoke garden through April and May; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 23-26 Oct.; ANGLESEY: three at a Pheasant

feeder on Llanddyfnan estate, near Talwrn, on 24 Jan.; adult and juv. at Pandy Treban near Bryngwran, the only known breeding site on the island; DENBIGH: two near Ridleywood on 11 March; NT Erddig on 26 March; Holt on 19 Nov.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 30 June.

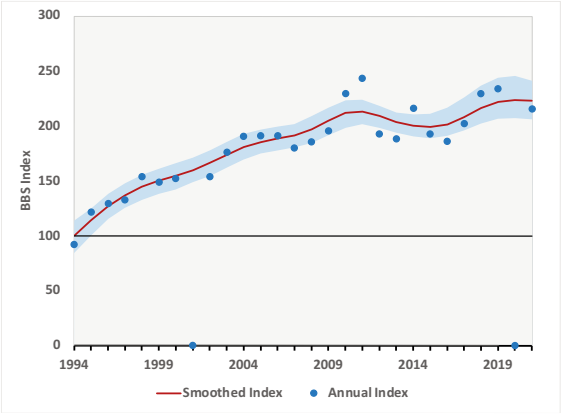
HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* ADERYN Y TO

Abundant and widespread resident (800,000 breeding pairs). Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	8028	8389
% of BirdTrack lists	39%	39%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been stable over the last few years, but the long-term trend shows a strong increase (96% during 1995-2020), much greater than any other UK country. The BirdTrack reporting rate reached its highest level in 2021, even more than the previous year when a greater proportion of lists had been submitted from residential areas.

Breeding Bird Survey: House Sparrow in Wales, 1994-2021



Counts ≥70: E.GLAMORGAN: 77 at Nottage Fields on 25 June; 155 near Heol-y-Mynydd on 21 July; 70 at Penywaun on 2 Sept.; GOWER: 60-80 in both winter periods on Aberavon foreshore; *c.*120 at Little Hills Farm, Gower, on 16 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 150 at Pencarnan on 28 Sept.; BRECON: 90 in a Libanus garden in Aug.; 60+ in Sennybridge on 22 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: 85 near Ceinws on 14 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 at Sunnysands Caravan Park, Tal y bont, on 17 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 100 at Llanddyfan estate, Talwrn, on 17 Jan.; DENBIGH: 70 at Holt on 13 Jan.

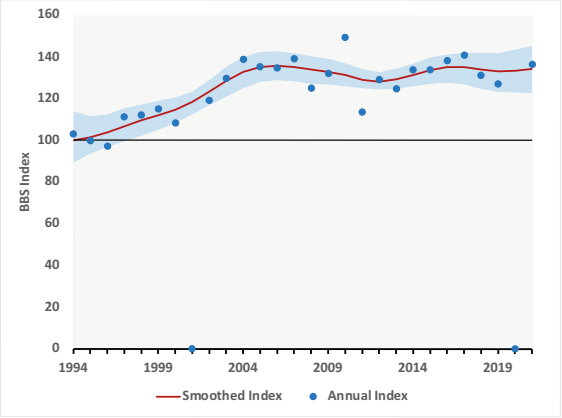
DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* LLWYD Y GWRYCH

Abundant breeding resident (310,000 territories). Occasional post-breeding movements noted on the islands. Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	9160	9733
% of BirdTrack lists	46%	46%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has remained stable over the last 15 years, and is 31% above its 1995 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate was above the 2013-20 mean, having almost fully recovered from losses during 2017/18.

Breeding Bird Survey: Dunnock in Wales, 1994-2021



Counts ≥10: GWENT: 12 at Osbaston on 11 March; 11 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 27 April; 11 at Chepstow Park Wood on 31 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 at Tirfounder Fields on 21 Feb.; 10 at Rumney Great Wharf and Creigiau Quarry on 8 March; 11 on Flat Holm on 9 March; 12 at Cadoxton Ponds and 13 at Taff's Well on 15 March; 12 at Hendre Lake on 18 March; 10 at Llanwonno on 21 March; CARMARTHEN: 56 breeding territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: 14 at Ceibwr on 1 Aug.; 12 Old Mill Grounds, Haverfordwest, on 14 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 11 at Aberllefenni on 30 Oct.; 18 at Corris on 31 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 15 territories and min. 27 juveniles on Bardsey; 17 on passage on Bardsey on 19 Sept. and two counts >20 in Oct. (max. 26); 10+ at Penhower Uchaf, Bangor, on 1 March; 16 at Mynydd Rhiw on 9 March; DENBIGH: 13 at Holt on 13 Jan. and 23 Feb. and 16 here on 22 March; 11 at Acrefair on 3 March; 15 at Betws-yn-Rhos on 24 April; 11 in Gwernymynydd on 24 Dec.; FLINT: 18 at Brickfields NR, Rhyl, on 30 April; max. 13 at Etna CP on 15 Feb.; 12 at Loggerheads CP on 28 Jan.; 20 at Prestatyn on 28 Feb.; max. 13 at Pantmwyn on 21 Feb.

Dunnock (Rebecca Elliot)

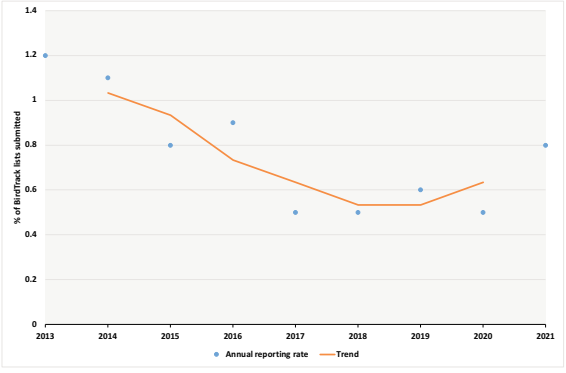
WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima* SIGLEN FELEN Y GORLLEWIN

Declining, now scarce, breeder and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	175	261
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

This species is too scarce for a Breeding Bird Survey trend to be generated for Wales, and interestingly the UK trend is at its highest since 2003, although still 36% lower than in 1995. The frequency of occurrence on BirdTrack lists in Wales is low and had been falling, so it is encouraging to see the reporting rate in 2021 was the highest for five years. No breeding data was available from GWENT, which has held breeding pairs in recent years.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Western Yellow Wagtail in Wales 2013-21



Breeding: BRECON: pair at Trebarried Farm, Llanfilo, on 11 May; two males held territory on Gro Common, Glasbury, at end of May; MONTGOMERY: two pairs probably bred at Bacheldre; DENBIGH: four at Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield NNR in May, but unclear whether breeding occurred, and on which side of the border.

Notable passage: GWENT: 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 24 April and 10-15 here on seven dates between 20 Aug. and 3 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 50 at Sker Farm on 26 Aug.; 100 at Southerndown Cliffs on 27 Aug. and 75 here on 29-30th; 10 at Dunraven on 15 Sept.; six at Sker Farm on 23 and 29 Sept.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no records from RADNOR or MEIRIONNYDD)

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	24 April	Newport Wetlands		3 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	19 April	The Leys – Gileston		9 Oct.	Sully Bay
GOWER	no spring records			18 Sept.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	no spring records			**10 Nov.**	**Penclacwydd**
PEMBROKE	2 April	Skokholm		19 Sept.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	**30 March**	**Llanrhystud**		20 Aug.	Teifi marshes
BRECON	6 April	Llangorse Lake		11 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	9 April	Foel		17 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
CAERNARFON	23 April	Aberdaron		8 Oct.	Porth Meudwy
ANGLESEY	20 April	Hen Borth & Cemlyn		3 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	8 May	RSPB Conwy		4 Aug.	Lleweni watermeadows
FLINT	24 April	Loggerheads CP		19 Sept.	Clwyd estuary

2019 GWENT, correction: earliest record was at Llanbadoc on 17 April; 25 at Black Rock on 25 Aug.

M.f. flava X M.f. flavissima hybrid (*"Channel Wagtail"****)***
BRECON: male at Brechfa Pool on 16-23 April, the first county record; ANGLESEY: Caim, near Penmon, on 23 April; Hen Borth on 24-25 April; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 8 May.

M.f. flava **(Blue-headed Wagtail / Siglen Felen Benlas)**
Uncommon passage migrant, primarily to coastal sites in spring.

PEMBROKE: male at Marloes Mere on 20-21 April; Skokholm on 6 June; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 26 April; Hen Borth and Cemlyn on 1 May.

M. f. thunbergi **(Grey-headed / Siglen Benlwyd)**
Rare visitor from Fennoscandia and Russia. WBRC: 17 previous records.

PEMBROKE: male on Skomer on 21-22 May.

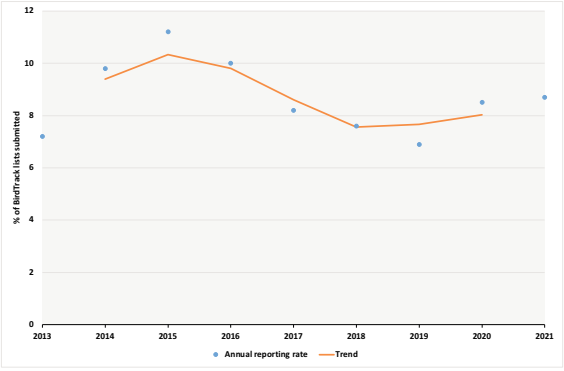
GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident (5950 pairs), mainly along fast-flowing streams in all counties. Most move downstream in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2047	2257
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	9%

There is no long-term Breeding Bird Survey trend for Wales, but the index increased by 12% during 2010-20, very similar to the UK index from the Waterways Breeding Bird Survey. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales has fluctuated during 2013-21. The counts below include some surprisingly large late summer passage on the South Wales coast, including 110 at Undy, GWENT, that is the largest site count on a single day ever recorded in Wales.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Grey Wagtail in Wales 2013-21



Counts ≥10 in addition to the table below: E.GLAMORGAN: 13 on R. Taff at Pontypridd on 22 Aug.; 18 on R.Taff between Radyr Weir and Llandaff on 25 Aug.; 12 at Cardiff Bay on 13 Oct. and 16 here on 11 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 12 on Skomer on 7 Sept.; BRECON: 12 on R. Usk between Llangynidr Bridge and Cyffredin on 5 March; MONTGOMERY: 18 on R. Efyrnwy, Eunant and Eiddew, flowing into Lake Vyrnwy, on 27 July; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 west of Dyfi Bridge on 29 March; 10 at Broadwater on 12 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 11 at New Quay on 17 Oct.; CAERNARFON:, 12 on Bardsey on 1 Sept. and 15 here on 6 Oct.; 13 at Aberdaron on 18 Sept .

Max. daily counts (≥10) on autumn passage in southeast Wales.

Month	Aug.	September								
Date	31	1	3	4	5	7	12	15	18	24
GWENT Levels			110	65			23		23	10
Lavernock Pt, E.GLAMORGAN	15	18	48	29	53	27		11	11	

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* SIGLEN FRAITH

Fairly common and widespread breeding resident (56,000 breeding pairs). Passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

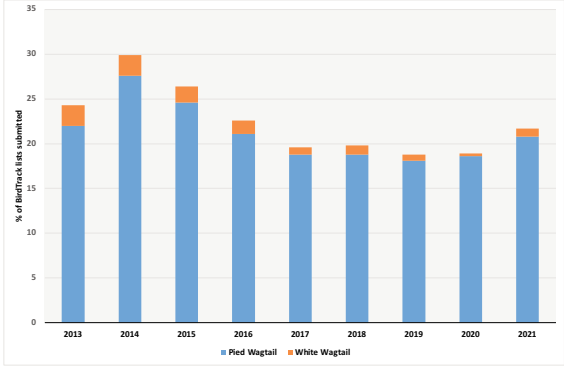
Pied/White Wagtail	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	5048	5960
% of BirdTrack lists	24%	27%

The long-term trend is stable (-9%, 1995-2020), but the index from the Breeding Bird Survey has fallen in recent years. The BirdTrack reporting rate for *yarrellii* Pied Wagtail has showed annual variation, but in combination with *alba* White Wagtail, it was the highest since 2016, whereas the trend in the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate is downward.

Breeding Bird Survey: Pied Wagtail in Wales, 1994-2021

Counts >100 of *yarrellii*: E.GLAMORGAN: 185 over Cardiff Bay Barrage and 43 at Lavernock Pt on 8 Oct.; 182 over Lavernock Pt on 10 Oct. and 130 here on 16th; CARMARTHEN: *c.*100 roosted at Pont Abraham Services on 28 Jan.; *c.*100 roosted at Cross Hands Business Park on 24 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 550 roosted at Withybush Hospital on 4 Jan., 600 here on 4 Feb. and 360 on 12 Dec.; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: pre-roost of 160 at Glandyfi on 1 Nov.; BRECON: 100 over Tirbach at dusk on 13 Sept.; 155 roosted in Llangasty reedbeds on 29 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 150 at Aber Cefni on 12 Nov.; FLINT: 100 at St Asaph Business Park on 18 Nov.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Pied Wagtail in Wales 2013-21



***M.a.alba* (White Wagtail / Siglen Wen)**

Passage migrant in spring and autumn, mainly of Icelandic population.

Spring passage counts ≥5: GWENT: 17 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 12 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 18 at Cardiff Bay Barrage on 10 April, 14 here on 11th, 15 on 12th, 20 on 13th and 12 on 15th; five at Sker on 4 April, 12 here on 10th, 10 on 12th and 16 on 13th; GOWER: six at Weobley saltmarsh on 10 April; PEMBROKE: 11 at Marloes Mere on 21 April; CEREDIGION/PEMBROKE: 145 roosted at Teifi Marshes on 13 April; CEREDIGION: 52 north at Ynyslas on 15 April; 20 at Llanrhystud on 24 April and 15 here on 8 May; BRECON: five on Llangorse Common on 14 April; MEIRIONNYDD: uncounted within mixed flocks of 15 at Tonfanau on 7 Sept. and 71 at Broadwater on 12th; CAERNARFON: 16 at Dinas Dinlle/Foryd on 4 April, 20 here on 20th and 12 on 24th; 15 on Bardsey on 29 April; five at Morfa Madryn and eight at Morfa Aber on 30 April; ANGLESEY: 10 at Cemlyn on 4 April; 24 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 7 April and 10 on 26 and 29 May; 58 between Cemlyn and Carmel Head on 14 April and 34 here on 1 May; 10 at Hen Borth on 17 April; 15 at Cemlyn on 20 April; 25 at Hen Borth/Cemlyn on 25 April and 20 here on 27th and 13 May; 13 at Rhosneigr on 6 May; DENBIGH: five at RSPB Conwy on 14 April and up to 16 here on 8 May; FLINT: six at Brickfields NR, Rhyl, on 21 April.

Autumn passage counts ≥5: E.GLAMORGAN: 35 at Dunraven on 15 Sept.; 182 at Lavernock Pt on 10 Oct.; PEMBROKE: >10 at Dale Airfield on 28 Aug., 40 here on 7 Sept. and 10 on 21st; CAERNARFON: 70 in Aberdaron area on 18 Sept.

(incl. 60 in a field near Uwchmynydd), and 33 here on 20th; monthly max. 18 on Bardsey on 24 Aug. and 16 on 22 Sept.; DENBIGH: six at RSPB Conwy on 27 Aug. and 16 here on 2 Sept.

2019 GWENT, additional records: four at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 4 April and singles on 23 April and 4 May.

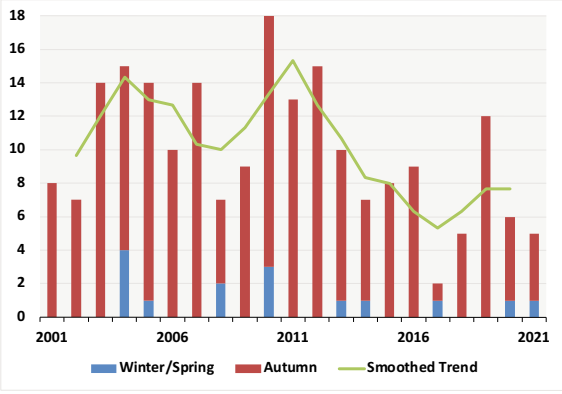
RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* CORHEDYDD RICHARD

Uncommon autumn passage migrant. Now proven to winter regularly in southwest France from east Asian breeding range, thought to be via a route north of the Alps. Wales Amber listed (not assessed prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	5	4
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Five records, all single birds. E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 10 Jan. and Merthyr Mawr on 1 March was probably the same wintering individual; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 1 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Llanon on 30 Oct.; CAERNARFON: over Bardsey on 11 Oct. and 3 Nov.

Richard's Pipits recorded in Wales, 2001-21



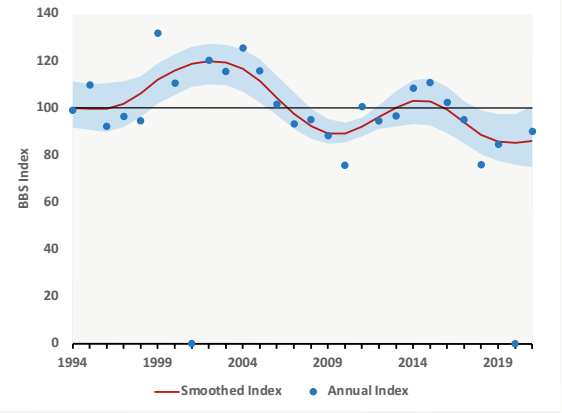
MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

Abundant and widespread breeding species, especially on moorland (170,000 pairs). Winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3703	4532
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	19%

Population cycles in this species are not unexpected, but the long-term Breeding Bird Survey trend is slightly down (-14%, 1995-2020). The BirdTrack reporting rate showed a similar trend during 2013-21, notwithstanding a lower than expected rate in 2020 when fewer visits were made to upland areas because of COVID-19 travel restrictions. As with several other passerines, there was notable visible migration in autumn, although primarily in the southeast. A day count of 7786 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), GWENT, on 26 September was the largest ever in Wales (*cf*. 5243 in the same county on 20 Sept. 2014).

Breeding Bird Survey: Meadow Pipit in Wales, 1994-2021



Late winter/spring counts ≥100: CAERNARFON: 579 on the Great Orme on 20 March, 1241 here on 22nd, 217 on 23rd, 242 on 30th, 639 on 31st, 1817 on 1 April and 140 on 21st; max. 225 on Bardsey on 19 March; ANGLESEY: 260 in the Cemlyn area on 14 April; DENBIGH: 250 at north end of Llyn Brenig on 4 April.

Autumn/early winter counts indicate broad movement from mid Sept. to the first week of Oct.

Max. day counts (≥100) on autumn passage in southeast Wales.

Month	*September*							*October*					
Date	*12*	*15*	*18*	*24*	*25*	*26*	*29*	*1*	*2*	*3*	*7*	*8*	*10*
GWENT Levels	696		626	613		7786	125	300	652	2185	3058	1020	
Lavernock Pt, E.GLAMORGAN		120	58		77	218							101

Other counts ≥100 in autumn. GWENT: *c*.500 over Sugar Loaf on 14 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Perthcelyn rifle range on 5 Sept.; 110 at Rumney Great Wharf on 7 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: *c*.500 over Cynnant, Cynghordy, on 9 Oct.; *c*.150 at Kidwelly Marsh on 7 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Dale Airfield on 7 Sept. and 6 Oct.; 250 on Skomer on 21 Sept.; max. 175 on Skokholm on 21 Sept. and 177 here on 9 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 631 north at Ynyslas on 30 March and 689 here on 14 April; 166 south at Aberystwyth on 13 Oct.; 191 south at Llanon on 30 Oct.; BRECON: 100 from several viewpoints on Black Mountains on 10-12 Sept.; 500 on Trawsnant on 12 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 on Aran Fawddwy on 15 July; CAERNARFON: 245 at Aberdaron on 11 Sept., 250 here on 18 Oct. and 60 on 25th; max. day count 237 on Bardsey on 15 Sept. and 259 on 6 Oct.; DENBIGH: flock of 150 over Horseshoe Pass on 16 Sept.

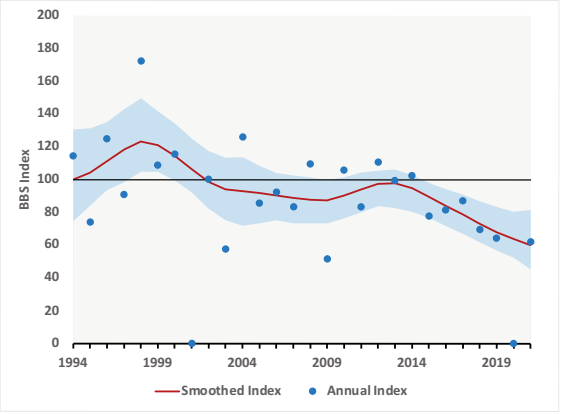
2019 GWENT: 100 at Llanishen in Dec.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* CORHEDYDD Y COED

Fairly common, but localised, summer visitor (16,500 breeding pairs) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	**317**	**438**
% of BirdTrack lists	**1%**	**2%**

Breeding Bird Survey: Tree Pipit in Wales, 1994-2021



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new low, having fallen by 39% during 1995-2020. The trend is similar, but the magnitude of decline greater, in England, whereas the population has doubled in Scotland over the same period, suggestive of climatic factors. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has shown a similar reduction, of 41% in 2019-21 compared to 2013-16.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no records in RADNOR).

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT (provisional)	8 April	Broad Meend		24. Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	8 April	Pant Norton		21 Sept.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	4 April	Foel Fynyddau		28 Aug.	Oxwich Marsh
CARMARTHEN	14 April	Mynydd Sylen		**4 Oct.**	**Cilsan Bridge**
PEMBROKE	17 April	Skokholm		4 Sept.	Dale Airfield
CEREDIGION	**30 March**	**Ynyslas**		14 Sept.	Mynachdy'r Graig
BRECON	17 April	Waun Rydd		26 Aug.	Penwyllt
MONTGOMERY	20 April	Y Golfa, west of Welshpool		15 Aug.	near Ceinws
MEIRIONNYDD	9 April	Dolgellau		15 Aug.	Pantperthog
CAERNARFON	1 April	Great Orme		15 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	16 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga		9 Sept.	Rhoscolyn
DENBIGH	16 April	Pentre Llyn-cymmer		29 Sept.	World's End
FLINT	25 April	Clwyd estuary		18 Sept.	Broughton

2019 GWENT, correction: earliest record was at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 8 April.

BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT *Anthus rubescens* CORHEDYDD MELYNLLWYD

Extremely rare visitor from North America. BBRC: one previous record.

GOWER: 1CY+ at Landimore on 8-12 Oct. was the first county record.

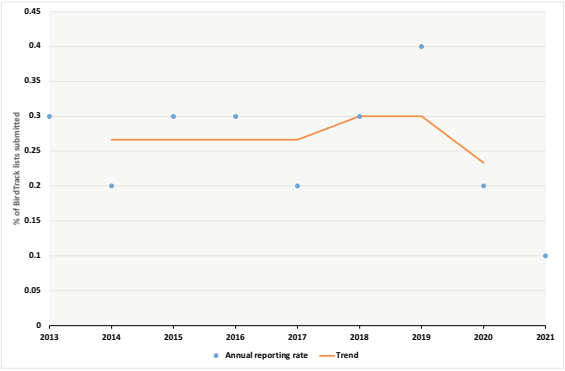
WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Uncommon, but locally numerous, winter visitor, mainly to coastal areas, and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	118	143
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The BirdTrack reporting rate of this species is always low, and especially so in 2021 when visits to the quieter areas of estuaries and marshes will have been restricted by COVID-19 from January to March.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Water Pipit in Wales 2013-21



There were double-figure counts in GWENT and E.GLAMORGAN in March and ANGLESEY in November. The May record in E.GLAMORGAN is unseasonal.

First winter period, single birds unless stated: GWENT: up to 10 at Peterstone Sluice Farm until 4 April (max. on 15 and 29 March); E.GLAMORGAN: max. five on Ogmore est. from 18-23 March but present throughout until 1 April; Rumney Great Wharf on 8 and 14 March; two at Ogmore Castle on 19 March; 7-11 by R. Thaw around B4265 on 29 March; Portobello on 12 May; GOWER: Wernffrwd on 12 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: six at Banc y Lord on 14 March; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. from 3 Jan. to 18 March; at least four at Newgale campsite on 19 March; CAERNARFON: Gloddaeth Farm, Penrhyn Bay, from 1 Jan. to 18 Feb.; Foryd on 14 and 18 March; ANGLESEY: Traeth Dulas on 1-27 Jan.; Traeth Coch on 15 March; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 17 March.

Second winter period: GWENT: four at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 9 Nov., one here on 7 Dec. and two on 9th; Peterstone Sluice Farm on 22 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 22 Oct., 19 and 30 Nov., and two here on 10, 19 and 31 Dec.; two at Banc y Lord on 7 Nov.; two between Penclacwydd and Morfa Bacas on 8 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Abercastle on 8 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Tanybwlch on 15 Dec. and two here on 19th; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 3 Nov., the first since October 2018; ANGLESEY: 10 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 10 Nov., three here on 3 Dec. and two on 26th; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 30 Nov.

2019 GWENT, additional records to those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019: three at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 23 Feb. and singles here on 20 Oct. and 7 Dec.; one at Peterstone Wentlooge on 28 Dec.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus* CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Localised, fairly common resident of rocky coastlines, except in Flintshire and Gwent. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to estuaries from Scandinavia. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1300	1580
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	7%

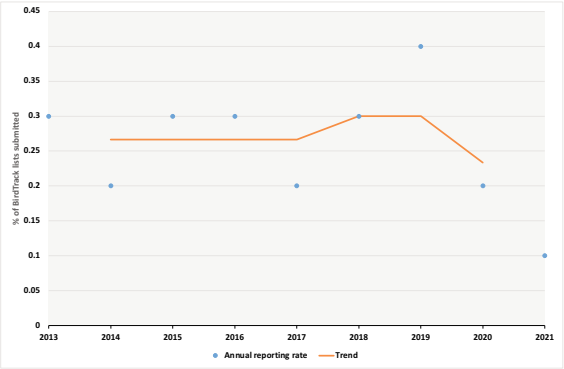
The BirdTrack reporting rate, the only guide to trends, shows a consistent decline since 2013. The only site with consistent breeding surveys is Bardsey, CAERNARFON, which recorded 34 breeding pairs, 10 fewer than in 2020.

Monthly max. day counts at coastal bird observatories.

	Feb	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Skokholm, PEMBROKE	32	43	36	34	34	57	61	90	77	67	48
Bardsey, CAERNARFON		25	30	18	23	49	54	48	70		

Counts ≥10: E.GLAM.: 12 at Sully Bay on 16 Jan.; 10 on Flat Holm on 14 March; 20 at Nash Pt on 17 March; 15 at Ogmore Down on 20 March and 12 here on 1 Sept.; 10 between Llantwit Major and Nash Pt on 9 Oct.; min. 10 at Sully Bay on 12 Oct.; GOWER: max. 14 at Port Talbot Harbour on 16 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 13 at Angle Bay

BirdTrack reporting rate: Water Pipit in Wales 2013-21



on 18 Sept. and 27 Oct.; 15 at Manorbier on 9 Oct.; 17 at Elegug Stacks on 13 Nov.; CAERNARFON: *c.*20 at Foryd on 13 March; 20 at Porth Ysgaden on 13 Aug.; 10 between Edern and Aber Geirch on 6 Sept.; 14 at Porth Neigwl on 27 Sept.; 26 at Mynydd Mawr on 13 Nov.

2019 GWENT: pair bred on Denny Island.

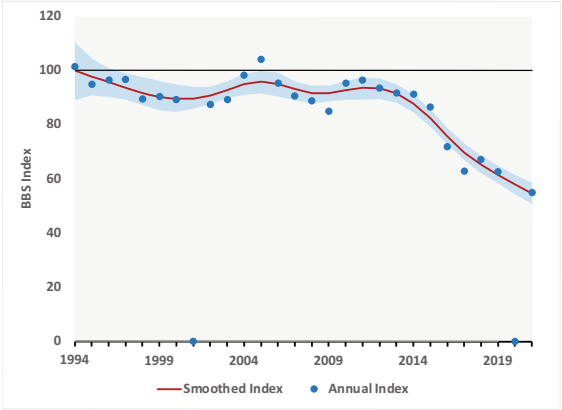
A.p. littoralis (**Scandinavian Rock Pipit / Corhedydd y Graig Llychlyn**)
Passage migrant, but probably under-recorded.
ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 5 Dec.; FLINT: White Sands on 27 Jan.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* JI-BINC

Abundant resident (470,000 breeding territories), passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed (Green prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	7813	8443
% of BirdTrack lists	38%	39%

Breeding Bird Survey: Chaffinch in Wales, 1994-2021



Breeding: the recent decline in Chaffinch abundance has continued to follow that of Greenfinch, albeit to a lesser degree. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales was 41% lower in 2020 than in 1995, a greater decline than elsewhere in the UK. The BTO Garden BirdWatch has shown declining garden use since 2013: reporting rates of 71.8% in January and 44.4% in September were the lowest maxima and minima in any year since the project started in 1995. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales was marginally higher than in 2020, but 25% lower in 2019-21 than in 2013-16.

Migration: passage was evident along the south and west coasts from early October to late November, with the greatest numbers in south Ceredigion and Pen Llŷn at the conjunction of those two months.

Max. counts by week at sites with ≥100 more than once during autumn.

Month	*October*				*November*		
Dates	*4-10*	*11-17*	*18-24*	*25-31*	*1-7*	*8-14*	*15-22*
GWENT Levels		55	54		510	201	
Lavernock Pt, E.GLAMORGAN	413	470		300	250	450	541
Telpyn Pt, CARMARTHEN				641	429		
Llanon, CEREDIGION				7451	9151		
Aberystwyth, CEREDIGION			418		507		
Bardsey, CAERNARFON				636	1084		
Mynydd Mawr, CAERNARFON	445	63	860	2370	390	975	
Aber/Llanfairfechan, CAERNARFON				340	300		
RSPB South Stack, ANGLESEY		93				164	
Cemlyn, ANGLESEY			2870				

Elsewhere: CARMARTHEN: 171 at Penclacwydd in Nov.; PEMBROKE: 500 at Martletwy on 1 Jan.; 300 at Landshipping on 7 Jan. and 150 here on 10 Feb.; 150 at Abereiddi on 8 Jan.; 641 at Amroth on 30 Oct.; BRECON: 250 in a winter birdcrop near Pennorth on 1 Feb., 230 here on 5th and >200 in Dec.; ANGLESEY: 1000 near Brynsiencyn on 29 Oct. and 300 here on 4 Nov.; DENBIGH: 237 at Pentre Cefn on 23 Jan.; 295 over Pensarn in 50 mins on 24 Oct.; 573 over Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay, on 2 Nov.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* PINC Y MYNYDD

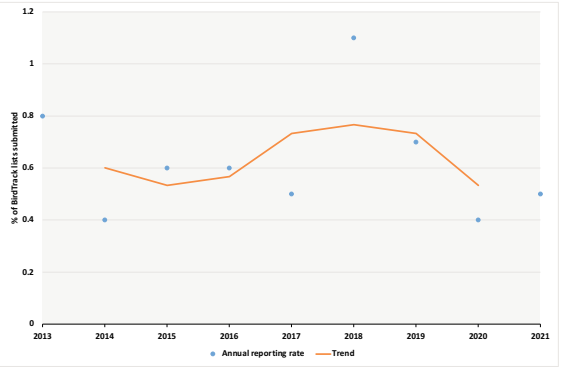
Winter visitor in variable numbers; seldom numerous and usually locally distributed. Wales Green listed (incorrectly listed previously as Amber).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	118	181
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The BirdTrack reporting rate trend is strongly influenced by the winter 2018/19 influx, and so discounting that, the 2021 rate is not untypical of recent years. Following a poor autumn in 2020, few were seen over the winter, but there was some good visible migration on south and west coasts in late October and mid-November 2021.

Counts ≥10 in first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: min. 10 between Nelson and Llanfabon on 2 Jan.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Brambling in Wales 2013-21



Counts at sites with ≥10 more than once during late autumn.

Month	*October*				*November*											
Date	*21*	*25*	*26*	*30*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*8*	*9*	*12*	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*
Lavernock Pt, E.GLAMORGAN			20						5	21	13	80	19	32	69	30
Telpyn Pt, CARMARTHEN*				37	3	44	8						1	18		
Llanon, CEREDIGION				74	136											
Bardsey, CAERNARFON		9				37										
Mynydd Mawr, CAERNARFON	11	28		13				13						47		

*some also seen at Amroth, PEMBROKE

Other counts ≥10 in autumn/second winter period: GWENT: 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 2 Nov.; GOWER: 20 at Mewslade Valley on 21 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 24 east at Penclacwydd on 14 Nov.; CEREDIGION: up to 12 in Oct./Nov. at Nant yr Arian; BRECON: 20 over The Cwm on 29 Oct.; 30 in a garden at Llanfihangel Talyllyn in late Nov.; 50 in a birdcrop in Pennorth on 30 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 25 at Dolydd Hafren through Dec.; 25 near Cefn Coch on 18 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 at Liberty Hall, Rhug, on 19 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 30 near Brynsiencyn on 26 Oct. and 20 here on 31st; 15 at RSPB South Stack on 11 Nov.

2019 GWENT, additional records: 20 at Colonel's Park on 4 Feb.; up to 30 at a site near Chepstow in late March/early April; 10 at Blaenserchan on 18 Oct.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* GYLFINBRAFF

Localised and uncommon resident, principally in southeast Wales and Meirionnydd - RBBP: 18 pairs recorded, but estimated 461 pairs in 2020. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor from Norway. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	152	145
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season records from nine counties is encouraging, although the difficulty of proving breeding is evident in that probable nesting was indicated in only two. Once again, there was a small movement in late autumn, but the wintering birds in the Conwy Valley appear to have moved from previous wintering sites on the CAERNARFON side to Llanrwst on the DENBIGH bank.

Breeding season (mainly April to June): GWENT: probably bred at Lower Minnetts Wood and Slade Wood; E.GLAMORGAN: nine females with brood patches among 23 caught and ringed at Fforestganol suggesting local

breeding; GOWER: one in a Knelston garden from 25 April to 25 May; 2CY male ringed at Oxwich on 26 May; CARMARTHEN: one at Allt Rhyd y Groes on 19 June; MONTGOMERY: two at Mochdre on 27 April and one here on 11 May; 1-2 in a Ceinws garden in May and June; male in a Guilsfield garden on 15 June; MEIRIONNYDD: six in a Llan Ffestiniog garden from early Feb. to early April and a female here on 27 May; one calling from a wood at Bontddu, Mawddach, on 22 July; CAERNARFON: two at Coetmor cemetery, Bethesda, on 17 April; two at Caerhun on 29 April and one here on 19 June; two at Trefriw on 7 June; ANGLESEY: one in a Llanfairynghornwy garden on 19 April; DENBIGH: Ruthin on 28 April; Efenechtyd on 2 May.

First winter period elsewhere, singles unless stated: GWENT: Gwern Ddu on 18 and 24 Jan.; Magor on 3 May; PEMBROKE: Narberth on 14 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 10 at Ceinws on 14 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: six at Llyn Tan y Graig, Llanelltyd, on 15 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Llanbedr-y-cennin on 13 March; DENBIGH: between Bryn-y-maen and Llanrwst on 6 April.

Second winter period: GWENT: seven at Gwern Ddu on 18 Aug. and one here on 11 Dec.; up to three at Cross Ash on 5-7 Nov.; Wentwood Forest on 7 Nov.; three at Usk on 22 Nov. and one here on 28 Dec.; Llanbadoc on 28 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 26 Oct., and 6 and 8 Nov, and two here on 16th; Cosmeston Lakes CP on 5 and 11 Nov.; Fforest Fawr on 1 Dec.; six at Dyffryn Gardens on 17 Dec. and three here on 22nd; St Fagans Museum on 21 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 3 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: seven in Castle Caereinion churchyard on 20 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 at Plas Tan y Bwlch on 22 Aug.; Llanelltyd churchyard in late Oct. and Nov., max. 21 on 29 Nov.; CAERNARFON: six at Penrhyn Castle on 30 Oct.; two at Caerhun on 30 Nov.; south over Bardsey on 3 Nov.; DENBIGH: Gwernymynydd on 13 Nov.; Llanfair DC on 9 Dec.; Clocaenog Forest on 24 Dec.; Llanrwst through Dec., max. 16 on 15th; FLINT: two in Mold and one in St Asaph on 13 Nov.

Ringing: of 23 Hawfinches caught at Fforestganol, E.GLAMORGAN, in 2021 five had been previously ringed in the Wye Valley, GWENT, the eldest as a 1CY in 2014. Three of these had been ringed near Chepstow or Monmouth in mid-April, where they were presumed to be breeding, but were recaught at Fforestganol just 10 days later, two in their original pairing. A female ringed at Fforestganol in 2018 was refound near Tintern, GWENT, in 2021.

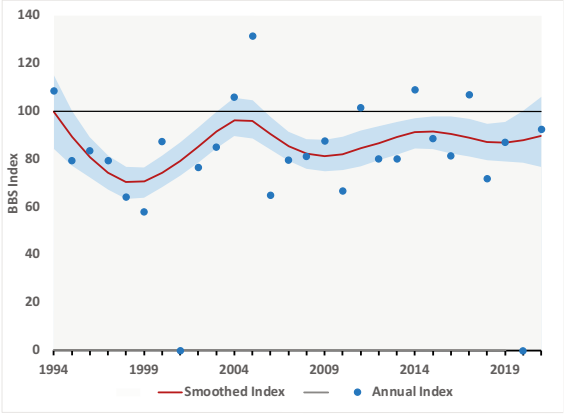
2019 GWENT: The Wye Valley Hawfinch project ringed 92 at four feeding sites and re-trapped 22 from previous years, including four from 2010; 34 were females with brood patches; the largest group elsewhere was 10 at Dingestow on 14 Jan., with smaller numbers at Cefn Ila, Minnets Wood, Colonel's Park, Penallt and Mathern. Pairs were in suitable breeding habitat at Glanau Wood and Luggas Wood, singles at Gwern Ddu and Dingestow, and five at Caerleon cemetery. A juv. was fed by an adult from a bird table at Panta Farm.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* COCH Y BERLLAN

Fairly common resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands (29,500 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed (Red prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	3397	3168
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	14%

Breeding Bird Survey: Bullfinch in Wales, 1994-2021



The highest annual index since 2017 has helped the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales back towards the positive, whereas the trend in recent years in England and Northern Ireland has been more sharply downward. The long-term trend (1995-2020) in Wales is now just -1% and there has also been a long-term increase in the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate for Wales. Although the BirdTrack reporting rate was below that for 2020, it was nonetheless the third highest year during 2013-21.

Counts ≥10: GWENT: 20 west of Clydach on 10 Oct.; 12 in Wentwood Forest on 11 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Grangemoor Park, Cardiff, on 2 Jan.; 10 in Nantgarw on 6

Jan.; 15 at Merthyr Mawr on 1 Feb.; 10 at Kenfig NNR on 4 Oct., 16 here on 7th, 12 on 18 Dec. and 15 on 19th; 11 over Lavernock Pt on 10 and 27 Oct., and 7 Nov, 12 here on 8 Nov. and 10 on 13th and 14th; 10 at Tirfounder Fields on 20 Nov.; 10 at Hirwaun Ind. Est. on 12 Dec.; BRECON: >20 around Waun Watcyn and Craig-y-cilau on 10 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 12 territories at Penclacwydd; 20 over Carreg-Sawdde Common on 23 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 10 at Ford Pill on 9 Jan.; 13 at Nevern est. on 25 Dec.; DENBIGH: 12 at RSPB Conwy on 22 Dec.; FLINT: 10 at Pantymwyn on 3 May.

2019 GWENT: 10 at Wentwood on 27 Oct.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* LLINOS GOCH

Scarce passage migrant from north/eastern Europe. WBRC: 165 previous records.

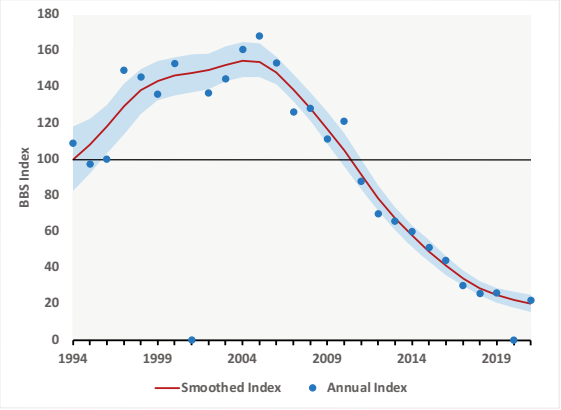
All were singles. PEMBROKE: male on Skokholm on 29 May; Ramsey on 5 June; immature/female on Skokholm on 17 Sept.; CAERNARFON: singing on Bardsey on 2 June; immature/female at Porth Meudwy on 10-11 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 2CY at Cemlyn on 2 June; Holyhead on 3 June.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris* LLINOS WERDD

Fairly common resident (38,000 breeding pairs), but has declined as a result of Trichomonosis disease. Wales Red listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2989	3273
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	14%

Breeding Bird Survey: Greenfinch in Wales, 1994-2021



Greenfinch has now overtaken Swift as the species monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey that is undergoing the greatest long-term decline, of 79% during 1995-2020. The BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate also shows a strong decline since 2005; the month with the highest count is generally June (27.3% of weekly lists submitted in 2021, compared to 61.7% in June 2011). If we could look for hope anywhere, it's that the rate of decline may have slowed, and indeed the BirdTrack reporting rate (14.4%) was the highest in Wales since 2016.

Counts ≥40: GOWER: max. 40 at Crymlyn Burrows on 19 Sept.; 54 ringed in late Aug. at Oxwich Marsh; CARMARTHEN: *c.*50 at Pembrey Burrows on 8 Aug.; 75 at Penclacwydd in Nov.; CAERNARFON: roost in Llandudno town centre contained *c.*240 on 12 Jan., *c.*165 on 28 Feb. and *c.*85 on 17 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 40 in mixed finch flock near Brynsiencyn on 29 Oct.; 50 at Malltraeth Cob on 11 Dec.

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris* LLINOS Y MYNYDD

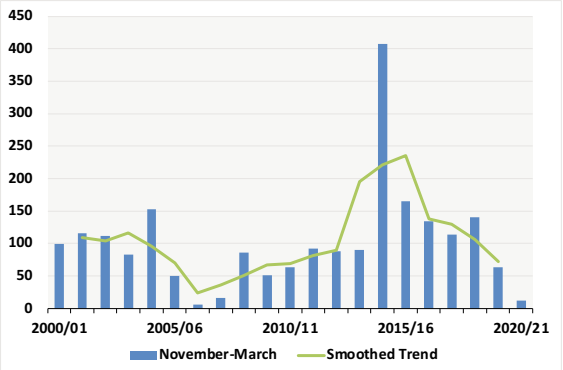
Rare breeding species, now restricted to a small part of Caernarfonshire. Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	87	29
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season: CAERNARFON: in Nant Ffrancon between late March and 13 May, after which birds usually nest at higher altitude. Max. 10 on 23 March.

Non-breeding, singles unless stated: CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 22 July; Bardsey on 17 Sept.; two over Mynydd Mawr on 25 Oct.; Morfa Conwy on 13 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Ynys Leurad, Inland Sea, on 19 Dec.; FLINT: 10 at Flint Dock on 6 April and at Connah's Quay NR on 18 April.

Non-breeding Twite recorded in Wales, based on site max. during Nov.-March, 2001-21



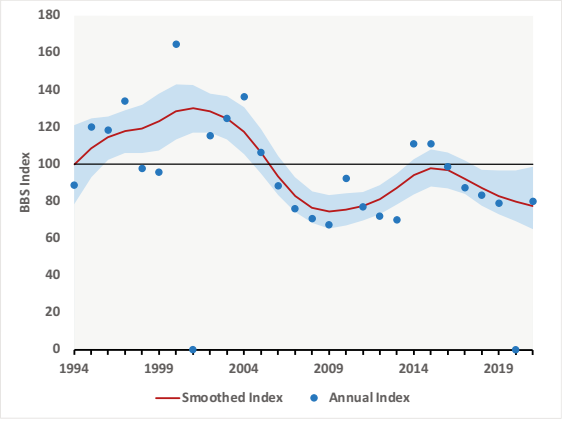
LINNET *Linaria cannabina* LLINOS

Fairly common resident (47,500 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2781	3308
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	14%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell to its lowest point in the last decade, and is 26% lower in the long-term (1995-2020). By contrast, the trend has been strongly upward in Scotland since 2013. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales is also down, notwithstanding a small increase compared to 2020 when visits to rural habitats were more limited. The rate was 24% lower in 2019-21 than in 2013-15.

Breeding Bird Survey: Linnet in Wales, 1994-2021



Breeding surveys: PEMBROKE: 48 pairs on Ramsey (*cf*. 50 in 2020); CAERNARFON: 19 pairs on Bardsey fledged 58 young (22 pairs in 2020).

Counts ≥100 in first winter period: CEREDIGION: 204 north at Ynyslas on 30 March, 302 here on 14 April and 342 on 15th; BRECON: 150 in a weedy field in Libanus on 23 Jan.; two separate flocks in the Llanddew area in Jan. contained 200 at Lower Pontwilym Farm and 300 near Anod Bridge; DENBIGH: 150 at Northwood on 19 Feb.

Counts ≥100 in second winter period: GWENT: 160 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 26 July, increasing to *c*.200 on 14 Aug. and 392 on 26 Sept., falling to 184 on 8 Oct.; 150 at Collister Pill on 23 Aug.; 130 at Undy on 18 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 150 at Cwm Cadlan NNR on 15 Aug.; 200 at Southerndown on 24 Aug. and 7 Sept.; 400 at Groes Farm, Southerndown, on 30 Aug.; 100 at Sker on 19 Sept.; 110 at Lavernock Pt on 25 Sept., 145 here on 10 Oct., 192 on 11th and 430 on 16th; 100 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 30 Sept. and 7 Oct.; 100 at Blaen y Cwm NR on 7 Oct.; 200 at Kenfig NNR on 29 Nov.; GOWER: 286 at Rhossili on 28 Aug. and >300 here on 22 Sept.; *c*.110 at Hardings Down on 13 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 300 at Mount Sion Down on 5 July; 160 at Castlemartin Corse on 28 Aug.; 150 at Freshwater West on 30 Aug.; 170 at Pencarnan Camp on 14 Sept.; 200 at Dale Airfield on 19 Sept. and 11 Oct.; 200 on Skomer on 21 Sept.; 200 at Treginnis on 8 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 230 south at Llanon on 30 Oct., 250 here on 31st and 180 on 7 Nov.; BRECON: 100 at Llanhamlach on 20 June, increasing to 300 on 22 July and 1 Aug., and 600 on 5 Sept.; 220 on stubble at Llangorse from 11 Aug.; 150 on Pant Mawr on 28 Aug.; 300 in bird cover crop at Pennorth on 2 Sept. and 16 Nov.; >100 at Llysdinam on 25 Oct.; CAERNARFON: *c*.100 at Foryd/Dinas Dinlle on 29 March; *c*.500 in barley stubble at Penrhyn Mawr, Aberdaron, on 5 Sept.; passage on Bardsey peaked at 485 on 10 Sept.; 200+ west at Llanfairfechan on 14 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 250 on Alaw est. on 13 Aug.; FLINT: 149 by Clwyd est. on 22 Sept. and 123 here on 30th.

2019 GWENT, additional large counts to those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019: 100 at Llangybi on 10 Jan. and 1 March.

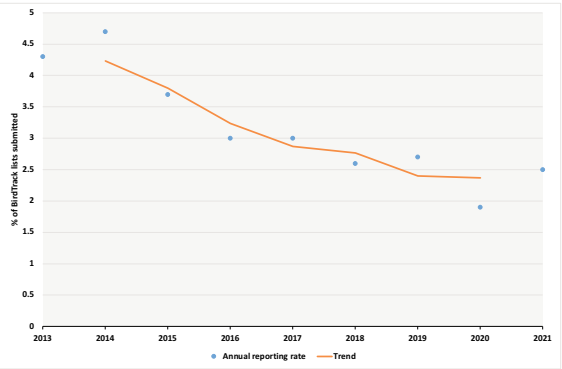
LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret* LLINOS BENGOCH FECHAN

Uncommon breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	508	636
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

No long-term trend is produced for Wales by the Breeding Bird Survey, but the index fell by 20% during 2010-20. Following a drop in 2020 that was most likely influenced by COVID-19 travel restrictions, there was some increase in the BirdTrack reporting rate, but it was otherwise the lowest of 2013-21.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Lesser Redpoll in Wales 2013-21



Counts ≥15 in first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 40 at Parc Penallta on 10 Jan.; 15 at Tirfounder Fields on 19 Jan.; BRECON: 15-20 at Libanus from Jan. to mid April; MONTGOMERY: 18 at Wern on 25 March; 40 at Cefn Coch on 16 April; CAERNARFON: 48 on Bardsey on 23 April; 36 on the Great Orme on 16 April, 52 here on 17th, 61 on 20th and 59 on 24th; *c.*30 in Nant Ffrancon on 5 May; ANGLESEY: 15 at Traeth Coch on 12 Feb. and 13 here on 5 March; 21 west of Wylfa on 20 April and 11 here on 13 May; 28 at Cafnan, Cemlyn, on 12 May; DENBIGH: 15 at NT Erddig on 1 Jan.

Counts ≥15 in second winter period: GWENT: 26 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 2 Nov.; 20 at Slade Wood on 14 Nov.; 70 at Wentwood Forest on 28 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 40 at Garwnant on 9 Nov.; 32 at Nant Moel Res. on 12 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 15 at Cilgwyn Manor Farm, Llangadog, on 23 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 60 at Pendam Forest on 20 Dec.; BRECON: 20 at Carreg Clochdy on 12 Sept.; 25 in Llaneglwys Wood on 22 Oct.; 24 at Yr Allt, Sennybridge, on 20 Nov.; 20 at Y Gors on 24 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 21 at Aberdaron on 10 Oct.; *c.*20 at Fachwen on 2 Dec.; DENBIGH: 101 at Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses NNR on 9 Sept., 102 here on 23 Oct. and 200 on 6 Nov.

2019 GWENT, additional count to those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019: 23 over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 27 Oct.

Common Crossbill (Bob Garrett)

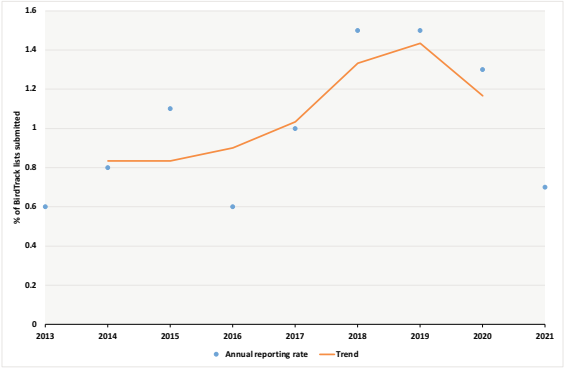
COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* GYLFINGROES

Locally fairly common breeding species although numbers fluctuate. Occasional irruptive immigrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	393	196
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for the UK (there is not one for Wales) has declined by 19% in the long-term (1995-2020), and by 52% in the medium-term (2010-20) following a decade of significant growth from 2000. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales suggested an increase during 2013-19, but the rate in 2021 was far lower.

BirdTrack reporting rate: Common Crossbill in Wales 2013-21



Breeding evidence: E.GLAMORGAN: juvenile at Llwyn-on forest on 28 Nov.; singing males at Bryn Du, Craig y Llyn, Garwnant, Llantrisant Forest and Onllwyn; GOWER: Upper Lliw Res., Foel Fynyddau, Mynydd Marchywel, Pontrhydyfen, Gyfylchi, Penhydd, Afan Argoed, Mynydd Blaengwynfi, Margam Pinewoods and Nicholaston; BRECON: nest with four eggs in Coed y Rhaiadr on 12 March; MEIRIONNYDD: Tan y Coed (Pantperthog), Carrago Plantation and Waen yr Hydd; ANGLESEY: Llyn Parc Mawr, Newborough; DENBIGH: female with brood patch caught at Cefn Coch on 28 Aug.

Counts ≥25: GWENT: 35 at Nant Big on 18 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 33 at Garwnant on 22 Dec.; BRECON: 30 at Usk Res. on 13 Nov.

2019 GWENT, additional counts to those published in *Welsh Bird Report* 2019: 30 in Chepstow Park Wood on 17 Feb.; 40 on Skirrid Fach on 17 May; 30 in Wentwood on 26 June. In the breeding season, nest and up to four other pairs in Chepstow Park Wood, bred at Blaenavon and in the vicinity of Skirrid Fach and possibly bred near Cleddon Hall and Trellech Common.

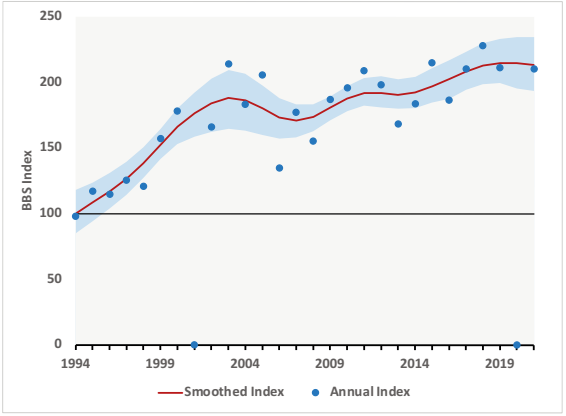
GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* NICO

Fairly common resident and summer visitor (180,000 breeding pairs) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	9120	9488
% of BirdTrack lists	44%	44%

The annual increase of the Breeding Bird Survey index in Wales (98% during 1995-2020) has levelled off in the last few years, a situation reflected in the BirdTrack reporting rate. The BTO Garden BirdWatch also recorded a long-term increase until 2016, but the reporting rate has been stable subsequently.

Breeding Bird Survey: Goldfinch in Wales, 1994-2021



Flocks ≥100 in spring: CEREDIGION: 114 north at Ynyslas on 30 March, 315 here on 1 April, 382 on 2nd and 445 on 21st; MONTGOMERY: 120 ringed in a garden in Llandinam in the first winter period.

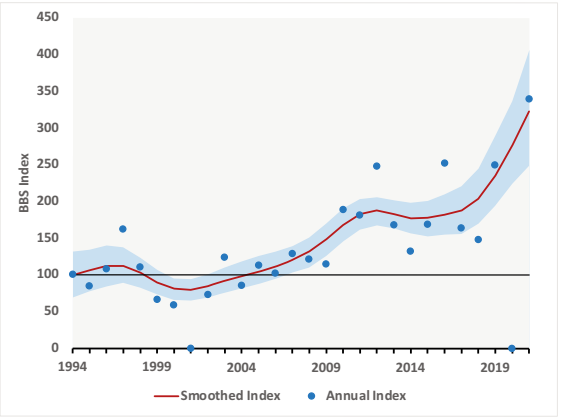
Post-breeding flocks ≥100 or on autumn passage: GWENT: *c.*200 at Peterstone Sluice Farm on 30 Aug.; *c.*100 at Peterstone Gout on 24 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: *c.*150 at Rumney Great Wharf on 30 Aug.; max. 250 at Lavernock Pt in Sept., 350 on 8 Oct., 645 on 10th, 1620 on 16th and 183 on 22 Nov.; GOWER: *c.*100 at Margam Moors on 31 Aug.; 106 at Whiteford NNR on 22 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Hook/Sprinkle on 10 Sept.; BRECON: 100 at Llangasty on 1 Oct.; CAERNARFON: peak passage on Bardsey was 173 on 9 Oct., 120 on 10th and 123 on 25th; 220 at Mynydd Mawr on 25 Oct.; FLINT: 100 at Hendy Pools on 10 Sept.; 100 in Flint on 14 Sept.; 145 at Gronant Dunes LNR on 19 Sept.; >100 at Connah's Quay NR in Sept./Oct., max. 200 on 3 and 10 Oct.

SISKIN *Spinus spinus* PILA GWYRDD

Fairly common but local breeding species (58,500 pairs), winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	2045	2399
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	10%

Breeding Bird Survey: Siskin in Wales, 1994-2021



In contrast to a downward trend in Goldcrest and Coal Tit, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Siskin in Wales reached yet another new high. The long-term trend is +160% (1995-2020), and the index in 2021 was 36% above that for 2019. The BirdTrack reporting rate was also at its highest since 2014, having fallen in the late 2010s, and there was an increase in numbers ringed in Wales.

Counts ≥60 at coastal watchpoints in autumn. Bardsey, CAERNARFON, recorded its second largest day count ever.

Month	*October*							*November*							
Date	*10*	*12*	*16*	*21*	*23*	*25*	*26*	*30*	*2*	*5*	*7*	*8*	*13*	*14*	*15*
Lavernock Pt, E.GLAMORGAN	67		155				40					20	19	>50	35
Llanon, CEREDIGION								584	319						
Bardsey, CAERNARFON						255									
Mynydd Mawr, CAERNARFON			15	158		109		106		79	130		108	65	
Cemlyn to Wylfa, ANGLESEY		74			222										

Other counts ≥60: GWENT: 60 at Nant Big on 18 Nov.; 73 at Llanwenarth and 70 at Osbaston on 27 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 60 at Parc Penallta on 10 Jan.; 100 in St Mellons Business Park on 19 Jan. and 60 here on 5 Feb.; 60 at Parc Cwm Dare on 27 Nov.; 60 at Hirwaun Substation Pond on 12 Dec.; GOWER: record 523 ringed at Oxwich NNR during the year; CEREDIGION: 70 at Longwood on 15 Aug.; 85 at Furnace on 18 Oct.; BRECON: 60 over The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 20 Oct. and 70 here on 24th; 70 at Buckland Hill on 18 Oct.; 120 at Cathedine Common on 23 Oct.; up to 70 in Usk Valley between Brecon Promenade and Pencelli on 21-22 Dec.; 80 at Tŷ Mawr Wood and Llaneglwys Forest on 22 Dec.; 80 near Crownant, Llanwrthwl, on 23 Dec.; 180 at Y Gors on 24 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 90 at Lake Vyrnwy on 27 July; MEIRIONNYDD: 90 at Cwm Cywarch on 14 May; CAERNARFON: 56+ passed Llanfairfechan on 31 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 85 at RSPB South Stack on 13 Oct.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* LLINOS FRECH

Scarce visitor from continental Europe. WBRC: 34 previous records.

PEMBROKE: female at the Gann est. on 16 Nov.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* BRAS Y GOGLEDD

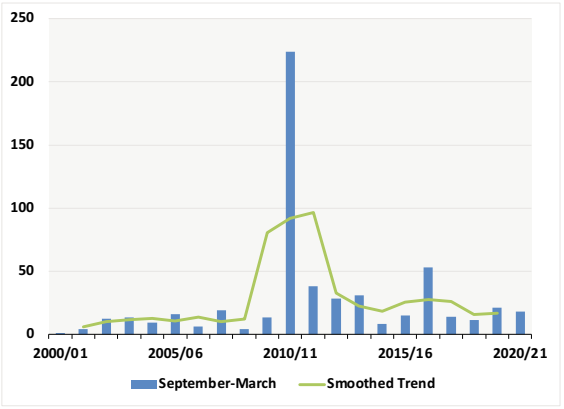
Uncommon but regular passage migrant, especially in autumn, and occasional winter resident. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	47	79
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Aside from the exceptional influx in winter 2010/11, numbers recorded appear not to have changed dramatically in the last two decades, although the majority of the winter counts in 2020/21 were in the early months of that season. Singles unless stated.

9-10 on spring passage. PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 21 April; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 21 March, two here on 22nd

Lapland Buntings recorded in Wales, based largest count in each county during Sept.-March, 2001-21



and three on 23rd; Morfa Dinlle on 11 and 16 April; ANGLESEY: Llanddona on 21 March; Cemlyn on 24 and 30 March, and (possibly two on) 11 April; Hen Borth on 14 and 24 April.

10 during autumn/second winter period (*cf.* 65 in 2020). GOWER: Weobley Marsh on 11 and 21 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 11 Oct.; Skokholm on 13 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Llanon on 30-31 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 6, 11, 18-19 Oct. and 2 Nov.; Bardsey on 25 Oct.

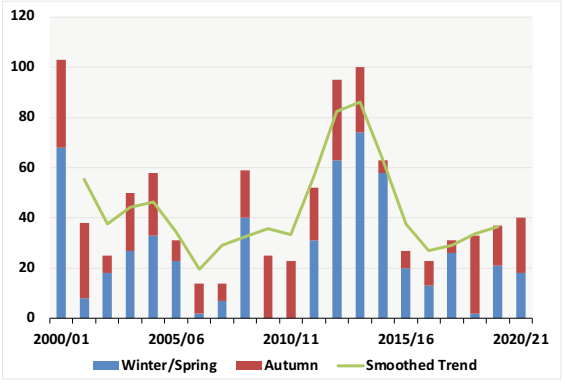
SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* BRAS YR EIRA

Uncommon but regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Most are considered to be of the subspecies insulae, which breed in Iceland. Wales Amber listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	275	271
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Numbers visiting Wales vary considerably between years, but aside from elevated counts for a few years in the last decade, there is no strong trend. Flock sizes have increased a little from their recent low point of five years ago.

Snow Buntings recorded in Wales, based on largest count in each county per season, 2001-21



First winter period, single birds unless stated: CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan on 5 Jan. and two here on 21st; Burry Port beach on 24-25 Jan.; Llanelli beach on 31 Jan. and 3-5 March; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 31 Jan.; CAERNARFON: four on Great Orme on 24 Jan., five here on 15 March and 12-16 April; Snowdon Ranger path on 10 Feb.; six on Carnedd Llywelyn and possibly the same six on Foel Grach on 28 Feb.; Bardsey on 21 March; Bwlch Glas on 21 March; Waunfawr on 12 April; ANGLESEY: three at Cemlyn and at Soldier's Pt, Holyhead, on 1 Jan.; Traeth Lligwy on 23 March; Cemlyn on 24 March; Llanddona on 26-27 March; DENBIGH: Horton's Nose from Jan. to March, max. four on 28 Feb. and 9-15 March (one of these on east bank of Clwyd est., FLINT, on 20 March); FLINT: Gronant Dunes LNR on 2-3 Jan.

Second winter period, single birds unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Rest Bay, Porthcawl, on 21 Nov.; Trecco Bay, Porthcawl, on 23 Nov.; Kenfig NNR on 29 Nov.; Gileston on 4 Dec.; GOWER: Weobley Marsh on 11 and 21 Oct.; Fall Bay on 21 and 22 Oct.; Upper Lliw Res. on 27 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: two at Cefn Sidan on 7 Nov., one here on 10 Dec. and four on 27-31 Dec. at least; Coed Ffos-las on 17 Nov.; Telpyn Pt on 22 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Marloes on 1 Oct.; two on Skokholm on 8-14 Oct.; up to five on Dale Airfield during 9-17 Oct. (max. on 13th); Skomer on 25 Oct.; Newport on 26 Oct.; Dinas Head on 27-30 Oct.; five at Fishguard breakwater from 8 Nov., with some remaining to the year end (three on 18 and 26 Dec.); Skokholm on 2 and 19-20 Nov,; three at West Hook on 23 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Aberaeron and Tanybwlch on 4 Nov.; Llanrhystud on 15 Nov.; BRECON: up to six on Pen-y-Fan on 15-16 Nov.; Pen Cerrig Calch, Black Mountains, on 21 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: Llyn Gwyddior, SW of Llangadfan, on 3 Nov.; Hafren Forest on 7 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey from 27 Sept. to 5 Oct., 13 Oct. and two on 29th; Great Orme on 24 Oct., and 1-2 here on most dates during 4-26 Nov.; Llandudno on 9-13 Dec.; Uwchmynydd on 19 Dec.; Fort Belan on 26 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Pt Lynas on 22 Oct.; RSPB South Stack and Cemlyn on 31 Oct.; west of Wylfa on 13 Nov.; Traeth yr Ora and Holyhead Harbour on 7 Dec.; FLINT: Talacre on 8 Nov.; two at Gronant Dunes LNR on 19 and 21 Nov.

2019 GWENT, correction: dates of one on The Blorenge were 20-25 Oct., not as stated in Welsh Bird Report 2019.

P.n. nivalis
Rare winter visitor, originating in Fennoscandia. It probably occurs more frequently than records suggest, but is rarely documented. WBRC: seven previous records, involving 12 individuals.

PEMBROKE: male at St Davids Head on 17 Jan.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra* BRAS YR YD
Rare visitor and former regular breeder, which possibly bred in 2020. WBRC: two records involving six individuals since 2010.

Although there was no proven repeat of breeding at this site, it is not regularly watched and the numbers present early in the breeding season suggest that it could easily have occurred.

DENBIGH: 24 at Bettisfield on 6 Feb. and 16 here on 11 April.

Yellowhammer (Dave Parry)

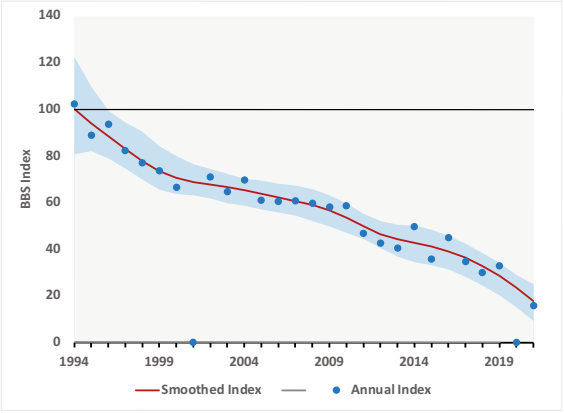
YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* BRAS MELYN

Declining but patchily-distributed and locally fairly common resident (31,500 breeding territories). Wales Red listed.

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	195	241
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales hit another new low in 2021, for the 25th consecutive year, and is now 75% lower than in 1995. Alarmingly, the rate of decline may be quickening, and there must be a genuine risk of the species being lost from further parts of Wales. It is also right on the threshold of the minimum number of squares to produce a country trend, as is already the case in Northern Ireland. The BirdTrack reporting rate hit a new low, occurring on just 0.6% of lists; the rate was 40% lower in 2019-21 than in 2013-15. A decline in spillover into gardens is also evident from the BTO Garden BirdWatch reporting rate, which has fallen from an average annual maximum of 5.4% in 1995-99 to just 1.3% in 2017-21.

Breeding Bird Survey: Yellowhammer in Wales, 1994-2021



Breeding pairs or territorial males, under-recorded in many counties: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Pant Norton on 20 March; two nests at Walterston, near Barry, on 11 May; singing males at Atlantic College, Blaen-y-Cwm NR, Summerhouse Pt, Gileston (The Walls) and Ogmore Down; GOWER: Rhossili/Mewslade, Hardings Down, Paviland Cliffs and Llanmadoc Hill, seven along Cefn Bryn, four between Hangman's Cross and Sanctuary Farmhouse; CARMARTHEN: male and two females at Marros Mountain on 13 April, four males here on 17th and three on 7 June; pair at Craig Bwlch-y-rhiw on 14 May; pair at Cilycwm on 24 May; probably bred at Cynnant, Cynghordy; PEMBROKE: 12 locations; CEREDIGION: Ystumtuen, Bwlch Glas, Doethie and near Bontgoch, and two near Mwnt; BRECON: five around Allt Filo, on Cefn Moel, Cathedine, and between Pontybat crossroads and Glandwr Farm; four along lane near Tir-bach (Libanus); nested on Llandefalle Common; family parties near WTSWW Y Byddwn and at Twyn, near Crickhowell, in autumn; RADNOR: probably bred at Black Hill, south of Knighton; MEIRIONNYDD: Nantmor and Llwyn Iarth, Dolgellau; present at seven other sites; CAERNARFON: three at Mynytho Common on 24 March and four here on 30 April; up to four birds around Rhiw; ANGLESEY: probably bred at Maenaddwyn; present at Brynteg and Mynydd Bodafon; two in Llandyfrydog in late July; DENBIGH: five locations; FLINT: five locations.

Counts ≥10: E.GLAMORGAN: 15 at Southerndown on 15 Jan. and 10 here on 16th; 30 at Marcross on 20 March; max. 31 at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm feeding strip in Nov.; PEMBROKE: 25 at Folkestone Farm on 1 May; BRECON: max. 25 on a winter birdcrop near Pennorth; MONTGOMERY: *c.*40 at Burgedin Lock, Arddleen, on 24 Jan.; 10 at Lymore on 28 Feb.

2019 GWENT, additional breeding season records: four at Mynydd Llanwenarth.

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* BRAS BYCHAN

Scarce visitor from northeast Europe and Arctic Russia. WBRC: 35 previous records.

GOWER: 1CY ringed at Southgate on 8 Nov.; BRECON: one fed with Lesser Redpolls on a washed-out harvested fodder-beet field outside Libanus from 8 Feb. to 26 March.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala* BRAS PENDDU

Rare visitor from southeastern Europe. BBRC: 32 previous records.

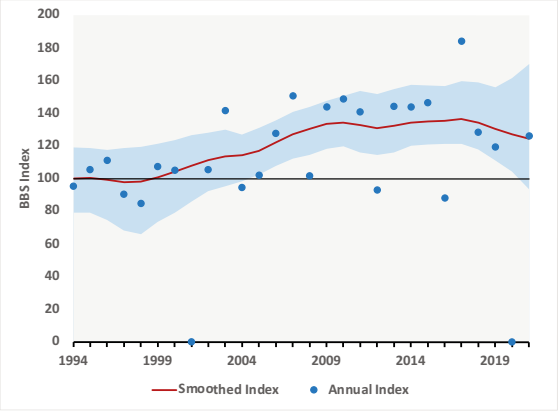
CARMARTHEN: male on feeders in the garden of the Derlwyn Arms, Brynamman, on 26 May was the second county record.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* BRAS CYRS

Fairly common resident, mainly in damp habitats (17,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed (Amber prior to 2022).

	2020	2021
No of BirdTrack records	1545	2040
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	8%

Breeding Bird Survey: Reed Bunting in Wales, 1994-2021



Like Yellowhammer, this species lies right on the limit of being recorded in sufficient Breeding Bird Survey squares to generate a country trend. The long-term trend is far more positive, however (+27%, 1995-2020), despite a short-term decline. Although BirdTrack reporting was up on 2020, the rate was 39% lower in 2019-21 than in 2013-15. The BTO Garden BirdWatch has also shown a decline in reporting rate since 2010, but especially since 2018.

Counts ≥20: CARMARTHEN: *c.*20 at Brynamman on 12 Feb.; BRECON: 60-80 In a winter birdcrop near Pennorth in Jan., peaking at 120 on 1 Feb., and 70 here on 11 March; over 20 breeding pairs at Llangorse Lake; ANGLESEY: 48 territories in part of RSPB Cors Ddyga surveyed.

2019 GWENT, additional count: 20 at Llangybi in Jan.

ESCAPES AND REINTRODUCTIONS

The following species (single birds unless stated) were reported to county recorders and BirdTrack.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* GWYDD BENRHESOG

Category E. GWENT: R. Monnow near Osbaston from 11 April to 6 May.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* GWYDD YR EIRA

Category E. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 6 May; GOWER: Eglwys Nunydd Res. on three dates in Sept.; Neath Abbey saltings on 19 Dec.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* ALARCH DDU

Category E. GOWER: Fendrod Lake on several dates between 25 July and 15 Sept.; PEMBROKE: two on Caldey on 17 May.

2019 GWENT: at various coastal sites throughout the year.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

This is the highest number of records in Wales since a flock of 12 at several sites in 1994.

Category E. GWENT: three at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 8 June and one here on 12th; GOWER: Landimore Marsh on 22 March and 11 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: two at Penclacwydd on 16 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: two female or 1CY on Broadwater on 15 July; DENBIGH: two at RSPB Conwy on 12 Aug.; FLINT: various locations on Dee est. between 10 June and 15 Nov. (but see below).

SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana* HWYADEN GOCH Y PENRHYN

Category E. FLINT: two on Clwyd est. on 12 July; Connah's Quay NR on several dates during 11 July to 28 September. Confusion with the records of Ruddy Shelduck in Denbighshire and Flintshire above cannot be ruled out.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* HWYADEN FWSG
Category E. GWENT: R. Usk at Llanfoist on 5 Jan.; GOWER: Penllergaer Valley Pond on 9 Jan.; three at Brynmill Park Lake on 16 March; BRECON: Canal Basin, Brecon, during Sept. to Nov.
2019 GWENT: Parc Nant-y-Waun from 4 Jan. to 1 July; R. Usk on 6 Oct.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* HWYADEN GRIBOG Y COED
Category E. GWENT: 13 at Ebbw Vale Festival Park on 11 Jan. and six here on 11 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: Llyn Coed-y-dinas on 10 Nov.; Dolydd Hafren on 24 Dec.
2019 GWENT: up to four (two males) at Festival Park, Ebbw Vale, from Feb. to Nov.

AFRICAN PYGMY GOOSE *Nettapus auritus* CORWYDD AFRICA
Category E. CAERNARFON: Pwll McAlpine, Porthmadog, on 14-19 Sept. This is the species' first appearance in the *Welsh Bird Report*.

REEVES'S PHEASANT *Syrmaticus reevesii* FFESANT REEVES
Category E. DENBIGH: north of Tal-y-cafn on 2 April; female at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 30 April; FLINT: Coed Trefraith, Caerwys, on 17 April; three below Penycloddiau on 24 Oct.; Glan-yr-afon on 15 Nov.

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Pavo cristatus* PAUN
Category E. BRECON: males during spring and summer at Talyllyn and Gilfach (Llangorse); two males and two females introduced near Glasbury in Feb., but after complaints by local residents they were removed in June; MEIRIONNYDD: Ynys on 25 April; CAERNARFON: Caellepa, Bangor, on 14 June; DENBIGH: Llangwm on 20 July; FLINT: Faenol Fawr, Bodelwyddan, on 1 June.

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* CICONIA GWYN
Category R1. CARMARTHEN: Llandeilo on 8 March was relocated later that day at Glanbrydan Farm, Manordeilo, where it remained until 16th. This male (blue GB35) was of Polish origin, had been injured, taken into captivity and after rehabilitation at Warsaw Zoo, was released in early 2020 at Knepp, East Sussex; MONTGOMERY: one on a rooftop in Llanidloes on 6 March was presumed to be the same as above.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* ERYR EURAID
Known escape. MONTGOMERY: wearing jesses at Bwlch-y-cibau on 22-23 June.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla* ERYR MOR
Category R1. ANGLESEY: a subadult that headed out to sea over Fedw Fawr on 13 June was from the Isle of Wight reintroduction.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo sp.* ERYRDYLLUAN SP.
Category E. GOWER: Pontardawe GC in Sept.; ANGLESEY: Lon Lwyd, Pentraeth, on 10 March; Amlwch Port on 5 July.

PLUM-HEADED PARAKEET *Psittaculla cyanocephala* PARACIT PEN COCHLAS
Category E. CAERNARFON: Llandudno garden on 31 March.
2019 GWENT: near Brynmawr on 21 Oct.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula eupatria* PARACIT MAWR
Category E. GOWER: Broadlands, Bridgend, on 28 Oct.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* PARACIT TORCHOG
Category E, as there is no evidence that the population in Wales is self-sustaining nor that records in Wales are from a self-sustaining population elsewhere. This situation may well change, and so birders and county recorders are encouraged to report all sightings (see Facey and Vafidis 2020). There were 25 records on BirdTrack in 2021, the fewest since 2018. GWENT: Blackwood Park from 3 Jan. to 30 March, max. five on 17 Jan.; Newport Wetlands Reserve on 3-9 Nov.; GOWER: Llansamlet on 2 Jan.; Goppa Hill, Pontardulais, on 9 Jan.; Fendrod Lake on 15 Jan. and 23-24 April; Clyne Gardens on 23 Jan.; Morriston GC/Park on 7 Aug.; Underhill Park on 14 Nov.; PEMBROKE: two at Llanychaer on 14 May; Haverfordwest on 14 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Bangor on 3-4 April; ANGLESEY: Benllech on 7 July; known escape at Amlwch on 25 Aug.; DENBIGH: Llanddulas from 15 Dec. 2020 to at least 26 Feb.; FLINT: two around Rhyl in Feb.,

March, June, Oct. and one here in Dec., possibly same as two in Rhuddlan in April; 1-2 in Llanasa on 31 March and 22 April; Flint on 6 Sept.
2019 GWENT: two in the Blackwood area from 9 Jan. to at least 16 Oct.

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulates* BYJERIGAR
BRECON: Llanfihangel Talyllyn on 15 July.

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Whinchat (Henry Cook)

Ringing and Nest Recording Report for Wales 2021

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Ringing trends

With COVID-19 restrictions easing for most ringers and nest recorders, the number of birds ringed in 2021 increased above 2020 levels. This was still 6930 captures below the 2019 level, mainly driven by a reduced number of pulli (chicks) ringed during a poor breeding season. The reduction is likely not to be a reflection of ringer effort but a reduction of productivity for tit species due to the cold spring, which reduced prey availability. Blue Tit numbers were 23% below the five-year average (2016-20) and Great Tit was 40% lower than the five-year average. Pied Flycatcher exhibited laying dates between three and six days later than the five-year average but was able to compensate better, however they still produced 2.2% fewer fledglings than the five-year average. Two British and Irish longevity records were broken in 2021, for Dipper and Hawfinch ringed in Wales.

Numbers of full grown birds and pulli ringed and recaptured in 2010-21.

Year	*Full grown*	*Pulli*	*Total*	*Recaptures*
2021	56,281	17,072	73,353	19,099
2020	54,476	5,938	60,414	16,646
2019	57,726	22,557	80,283	17,946
2018	60,455	20,427	80,882	18,675
2017	58,196	20,296	78,492	16,622
2016	57,187	18,953	76,140	18,262
2015	52,971	21,231	74,202	14,831
2014	53,917	19,633	73,550	13,764
2013	41,578	15,813	57,391	11,654
2012	33,970	15,529	49,499	10,210
2011	42,946	16,825	59,771	10,328
2010	44,025	18,424	62,449	14,801
Total	**613,728**	**212,698**	**826,426**	**15,237**

In line with the whole of Britain and Ireland, Blue Tit (6776) was the most ringed bird in Wales in 2021. This rarely changes, but the differences between years can provide greater insight into annual variations of a species and this year showed there was an increase of 156 Blue Tit compared to the previous year. The number of Pied Flycatcher (6174) ringing records returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, thanks to an easing of pandemic restrictions, giving the opportunity for Pied Flycatcher projects to recommence their nest recording and pullus ringing (4265). Siskin numbers (4237) also increased, by 1865 birds, but the next most ringed species, Manx Shearwater, remained similar to 2020, increasing by only 571 birds.

There was a lot of change in the order of the most ringed pullus (chicks) in Wales in 2021 compared with 2020. In 2020, the order of pullus ringed was Pied Flycatcher (1806), Manx Shearwater (485), Blue Tit (358), Barn Owl (350) and Black-headed Gull (332). In 2021 this changed to Pied Flycatcher (5419), Blue Tit (1568), Guillemot (964), Great Tit (824), Dipper (648) and Barn Owl (631).

It is hard to differentiate between changes in bird demography and ringer effort, as is evident in the table below, which shows that effort returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. Two BTO schemes try to standardise 'effort', and produce information on adult survival, productivity and abundance. These are the Constant Effort Site (CES) and Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS). The number of registered CES in Wales continues to decline, from eight in 2020 to five in 2021, even though there is financial support from the BTO to all CES projects. Thankfully, a CES in Gwent has been registered for 2022 and one in Denbighshire was trialled and will commence in 2023. Ideally 15 CE Sites are needed to produce Wales-specific population trends, so if Welsh ringers know of sites that catch 200-300 birds between May and the end of August, the BTO would like to hear of them at ces@bto.org.

Wales does very well for the number of RAS studies considering the modest number of ringers. There were 24 RAS studies active in 2021 (*cf.* 25 in 2020). The active projects were Pied Flycatcher (seven), Dipper (two), Reed Warbler (two), House Sparrow (two) and single studies of Siskin, Wheatear, Willow Tit, Common Tern, Kittiwake, Shag, Guillemot, Reed Bunting, Arctic Tern, Hawfinch and Razorbill. There is still a lot of opportunity for more RAS projects, where recaptures of birds ringed in previous RAS seasons should be around 30-50 individual birds. A lot of species are suitable for a RAS but Barn Owl, Dipper, Mute Swan, Starling, Swallow, Pied Flycatcher, House Sparrow and Manx Shearwater fit particularly well. However, the BTO has fewer projects than would be expected from Wales.

Numbers of birds ringed by species

	2020				2021				
Species	Pullus	Fully Grown	2020 Total	Retrap/ resighting	Pullus	Fully Grown	2021 Total	Retrap/ resighting	Total difference
Brent Goose	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	8	0
Canada Goose	0	0	0	152	0	0	0	19	0
Barnacle Goose	0	0	0	5	0	46	46	9	46
Greylag Goose	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	4	0
White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	9	8
Mute Swan	64	11	75	61	71	24	95	142	20
Shelduck	0	9	9	1	0	15	15	7	6
Mandarin Duck	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	1
Wigeon	0	9	9	1	0	0	0	0	-9
Mallard	0	16	16	0	1	3	4	1	-12
Pintail	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Teal	0	4	4	0	0	8	8	0	4
Goosander	0	6	6	0	2	5	7	0	1
Red Grouse	0	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	-4
Quail	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Storm Petrel	14	964	978	199	41	1275	1,316	345	338
Leach's Petrel	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Fulmar	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	3
Manx Shearwater	486	2183	2669	1529	562	2678	3240	1043	571
Little Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	3
Grey Heron	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	-3
Little Egret	0	0	0	4	7	0	7	12	7
Gannet	0	0	0	2	0	35	35	12	35
Shag	93	0	93	47	350	13	363	122	270
Cormorant	0	0	0	39	294	0	294	39	294
Osprey	12	0	12	3	6	0	6	3	-6
Honey-buzzard	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2
Sparrowhawk	7	16	23	3	0	32	32	3	9
Goshawk	6	0	6	3	18	0	18	1	12
Hen Harrier	7	0	7	0	11	0	11	1	4
Red Kite	2	0	2	7	7	2	9	5	7
Buzzard	1	3	4	1	0	4	4	0	0
Water Rail	0	1	1	0	0	5	5	0	4
Moorhen	0	6	6	1	0	2	2	1	-4
Coot	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Oystercatcher	11	53	64	411	13	1085	1098	301	1034
Lapwing	1	7	8	3	1	14	15	4	7
Golden Plover	0	105	105	12	0	30	30	7	-75
Grey Plover	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	1	-2
Ringed Plover	13	165	178	195	28	193	221	157	43
Little Ringed Plover	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	4
Dotterel	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Whimbrel	0	9	9	3	0	39	39	10	30
Curlew	0	149	149	196	4	137	141	116	-8
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	7	7	2	0	10	10	3	3
Black-tailed Godwit	0	7	7	0	0	4	4	0	-3
Turnstone	0	145	145	18	0	92	92	64	-53
Knot	0	118	118	51	0	26	26	66	-92
Ruff	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	5
Curlew Sandpiper	0	4	4	0	0	1	1	0	-3

	2020				2021				
Species	Pullus	Fully Grown	2020 Total	Retrap/ resighting	Pullus	Fully Grown	2021 Total	Retrap/ resighting	Total difference
Sanderling	0	40	40	5	0	18	18	0	-22
Dunlin	0	1580	1580	425	0	1891	1891	182	311
Purple Sandpiper	0	7	7	2	0	1	1	0	-6
Little Stint	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	4
Woodcock	0	521	521	93	0	354	354	53	-167
Jack Snipe	0	37	37	12	0	25	25	3	-12
Snipe	0	147	147	0	0	62	62	1	-85
Common Sandpiper	2	7	9	2	1	4	5	0	-4
Green Sandpiper	0	6	6	0	0	3	3	0	-3
Redshank	0	525	525	377	0	192	192	126	-333
Greenshank	0	5	5	1	0	1	1	0	-4
Kittiwake	8	8	16	117	0	17	17	238	1
Black-headed Gull	332	2	334	48	419	2	421	15	87
Great Black-backed Gull	56	1	57	238	117	1	118	147	61
Herring Gull	124	35	159	112	573	120	693	183	534
Lesser Black-backed Gull	212	3	215	260	363	135	498	343	283
Sandwich Tern	0	48	48	36	0	16	16	140	-32
Little Tern	62	3	65	30	243	21	264	251	199
Common Tern	146	21	167	21	377	26	403	69	236
Arctic Tern	0	2	2	34	525	36	561	169	559
Great Skua	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Guillemot	151	4	155	16	964	153	1117	77	962
Razorbill	94	9	103	110	449	87	536	229	433
Puffin	14	13	27	113	48	164	212	672	185
Stock Dove	23	3	26	0	33	6	39	0	13
Woodpigeon	2	55	57	16	12	36	48	19	-9
Collared Dove	0	44	44	5	0	58	58	10	14
Cuckoo	0	2	2	0	0	6	6	0	4
Barn Owl	353	27	380	32	631	35	666	50	286
Tawny Owl	2	13	15	2	29	7	36	1	21
Little Owl	4	1	5	1	3	1	4	0	-1
Long-eared Owl	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	-4
Short-eared Owl	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	-1
Nightjar	41	52	93	83	35	65	100	41	7
Swift	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Kingfisher	0	39	39	9	0	17	17	13	-22
Bee-eater	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2
Wryneck	0	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	230	230	154	0	188	188	194	-42
Green Woodpecker	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0
Kestrel	40	4	44	3	91	1	92	10	48
Merlin	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	-1
Hobby	11	0	11	0	10	1	11	1	0
Peregrine	5	0	5	5	12	0	12	4	7
Red-eyed Vireo	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Jay	0	31	31	4	0	94	94	13	63
Magpie	0	36	36	13	5	32	37	11	1
Chough	83	21	104	28	164	22	186	103	82
Jackdaw	34	111	145	13	73	121	194	24	49
Rook	0	11	11	7	0	69	69	23	58
Carrion Crow	2	7	9	1	5	6	11	2	2

	2020				2021				
Species	Pullus	Fully Grown	2020 Total	Retrap/ resighting	Pullus	Fully Grown	2021 Total	Retrap/ resighting	Total difference
Raven	0	0	0	0	9	0	9	0	9
Coal Tit	9	984	993	581	46	505	551	446	-442
Marsh Tit	0	29	29	15	17	13	30	27	1
Willow Tit	9	16	25	22	20	30	50	12	25
Blue Tit	358	6262	6620	3001	1,568	5208	6776	2559	156
Great Tit	311	2915	3226	1721	824	1811	2635	1304	-591
Skylark	0	85	85	3	8	31	39	1	-46
Sand Martin	43	556	599	12	0	413	413	46	-186
Swallow	154	1522	1676	17	329	2607	2936	36	1260
House Martin	5	30	35	11	8	109	117	9	82
Cetti's Warbler	1	108	109	43	0	108	108	75	-1
Long-tailed Tit	0	699	699	204	0	609	609	218	-90
Willow Warbler	6	1633	1639	143	19	2078	2097	201	458
Chiffchaff	9	1966	1975	265	4	2200	2204	360	229
Western Bonelli's Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Wood Warbler	12	5	17	0	63	12	75	1	58
Yellow-browed Warbler	0	15	15	1	0	2	2	0	-13
Greenish Warbler	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2
Sedge Warbler	0	1400	1400	174	5	1227	1232	313	-168
Blyth's Reed Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Reed Warbler	1	985	986	241	4	1287	1291	392	305
Marsh Warbler	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Melodious Warbler	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	-1
Icterine Warbler	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Grasshopper Warbler	1	32	33	2	1	51	52	9	19
Blackcap	5	2233	2238	155	10	1936	1946	181	-292
Garden Warbler	10	92	102	10	1	103	104	19	2
Lesser Whitethroat	0	38	38	3	0	22	22	0	-16
Whitethroat	0	273	273	45	6	271	277	69	4
Subalpine Warbler sp.	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	1
Firecrest	0	19	19	3	0	10	10	0	-9
Goldcrest	0	1205	1205	170	0	1068	1068	180	-137
Wren	12	881	893	349	14	804	818	405	-75
Nuthatch	47	224	271	214	184	187	371	254	100
Treecreeper	11	139	150	30	13	73	86	19	-64
Starling	18	1168	1186	81	15	2177	2192	130	1006
Ring Ouzel	2	0	2	0	3	1	4	0	2
Blackbird	84	1283	1367	622	106	1056	1162	708	-205
Fieldfare	0	142	142	3	0	32	32	0	-110
Redwing	0	1623	1623	10	0	2489	2489	2	866
Song Thrush	24	323	347	49	27	228	255	46	-92
Mistle Thrush	0	13	13	0	0	13	13	0	0
Spotted Flycatcher	36	41	77	2	49	84	133	3	56
Robin	45	1327	1372	864	88	1191	1279	1048	-93
Nightingale	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Bluethroat	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Red-flanked Bluetail	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Pied Flycatcher	1806	105	1911	69	5,419	755	6174	350	4263
Black Redstart	0	4	4	2	0	4	4	1	0
Redstart	131	33	164	10	393	53	446	2	282
Whinchat	0	2	2	0	8	4	12	0	10

Species	2020 Pullus	2020 Fully Grown	2020 Total	2020 Retrap/ resighting	2021 Pullus	2021 Fully Grown	2021 Total	2021 Retrap/ resighting	Total difference
Stonechat	0	123	123	14	16	94	110	14	-13
Wheatear	0	31	31	61	47	117	164	71	133
Dipper	19	118	137	113	648	107	755	169	618
House Sparrow	151	1879	2030	539	150	1539	1689	1521	-341
Tree Sparrow	0	11	11	3	0	0	0	0	-11
Dunnock	19	1192	1211	1001	8	845	853	898	-358
Yellow Wagtail	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	-2
Grey Wagtail	6	146	152	0	156	49	205	0	53
Pied Wagtail	15	135	150	12	104	163	267	14	117
Meadow Pipit	8	1056	1064	31	9	1182	1191	46	127
Tree Pipit	12	16	28	0	47	38	85	1	57
Water Pipit	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	0	13
Rock Pipit	0	42	42	5	4	55	59	3	17
Chaffinch	11	2228	2239	294	9	1498	1507	311	-732
Brambling	0	25	25	0	0	71	71	5	46
Hawfinch	0	34	34	70	0	221	221	216	187
Bullfinch	9	394	403	126	0	384	384	145	-19
Common Rosefinch	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	1
Greenfinch	1	941	942	136	0	874	874	141	-68
Twite	0	14	14	38	0	3	3	3	-11
Linnet	0	114	114	1	0	134	134	6	20
Redpoll sp.	0	21	21	0	0	38	38	0	17
Common Redpoll	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2
Lesser Redpoll	3	330	333	35	0	511	511	36	178
Goldfinch	6	4399	4405	1405	9	3089	3098	1034	-1307
Siskin	1	2371	2372	773	0	4237	4237	1362	1865
Yellowhammer	0	85	85	5	0	28	28	1	-57
Little Bunting	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Reed Bunting	4	339	343	133	1	209	210	222	-133
Lapland Bunting	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	-2
Total	**5,938**	**54203**	**60,141**	**19357**	**17,072**	**56281**	**73,353**	**21579**	**13212**

The table shows the number of birds ringed as pullus or fully grown and those that have been recaptured or identified by a colour ring in 2021 compared to 2020. The totals are derived from the online Ringing Report: **www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports**

Ringed Plovers and Dunlins (Keith Roylance)

2021 selected recoveries

Below is a small selection of recoveries that stand out from the 73,353 re-encounters (recaptures, resightings or birds found dead) in 2021. The reports of note either involve long distances travelled, unusual species or longevity. Ringed birds are most likely to be found by ringers, but reports from non-ringers are also very important, particularly in areas less covered by ringers. Rings and colour rings can also be read on live birds by members of the public, helping to 'fill in the gap' of the bird's life history. To report a ringed bird, go to **www.ring.ac**; you will receive details of the bird including where and when the bird was ringed.

White-fronted Goose (1497000) Adult male
26-01-2021 Nr. Gaerwen, Anglesey
17-10-2021 East Loch Fada, Colonsay, Argyll and Bute
20-10-2021 East Loch Fada, Colonsay, Argyll and Bute
342km NNW 0y 8m 24d Alive (neck collar seen)

Storm Petrel (2740060) Adult
14-07-2018 Skokholm, Pembrokeshire
10-08-2021 Bay of Sannick, Highland
785km N 3y 0m 27d Caught by ringer

Manx Shearwater (EX93682) Nestling
18-08-2012 Skomer, Pembrokeshire
31-07-2021 Playa Marisol: **38°55'S 60°31'W Argentina**
11,410km SW 8y 11m 13d Long dead

Great White Egret (1504042) Nestling female
23-04-2021 RSPB Ham Wall, Somerset
24-06-2021 Confidential site, Denbighshire
09-07-2021 RSPB Conwy, Denbighshire
247km NNW 0y 2m 16d Alive (colour rings seen).
First British-ringed bird resighted in Wales (Photo below).

Great White Egret (Bob Garrett)

Shag (5210272) Nestling
25-06-2000 Puffin Island, Anglesey
12-09-2021 West Kirby, Wirral
55km E 21y 2m 18d Dead
Close to current British & Irish longevity record (21 years 6 months 21 days in 2007)

Osprey (1240964) Nestling female
03-07-2015 Cors Dyfi, Glandyfi, Montgomeryshire
13-05-2018 Klosterhede, Lemvig, Ringkøbing: **56°28'N 8°21'E Denmark**
16-04-2021 Bank House Moor, Cumbria
190km NNE 5y 9m 13d Alive (colour rings seen)

Hen Harrier (EW28907) Nestling male
14-07-2021 Confidential site, Denbighshire
10-11-2021 near Castlemorris, Pembrokeshire
155km SW 0y 3m 27d Dead

Golden Plover (DE29827) Adult
22-01-2012 Gwenlas, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Radnorshire
27-07-2021 Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland
27-08-2021 Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland
330km NNE 9y 7m 5d Alive (colour rings seen)

Whimbrel (EX28822) Full-grown
28-04-2017 Ynyslas National Nature Reserve, Borth, Ceredigion
18-05-2021 Île de Batz, Finistere: **48°44'N 3°59'W France**
422km S 4y 0m 20d Alive (colour rings seen)

Purple Sandpiper (8B92406) First-year male
05-08-2021 Store Slettingen, Mandal, (Vest-Agder): **57°57'N 7°28'E Norway**
23-09-2021 Bardsey, Caernarfonshire
965km WSW 0y 1m 18d Alive (colour rings seen)

Woodcock (EA71715) First-year
17-11-2020 Castle Hill, Llanilar, Ceredigion
08-12-2020 Caught by ringer, Castle Hill, Llanilar, Ceredigion
01-03-2021 Geinberg, Oberosterreich: **48°15'N 13°16'E Austria**
1306km ESE 0y 3m 12d Dead. First record to Austria

Kittiwake (EK59068) Adult
16-06-1995 Skomer, Pembrokeshire
14-06-2021 Skomer, Pembrokeshire
0km 25y 11m 29d Alive (colour rings seen)
Close to current British & Irish longevity record (28 years 6 months 5 days in 1993)

Caspian Tern (CT187655) Nestling
27-06-2019 Hamina, Kymenlaakso, Kymi: **60°25'N 27°13'E Finland**
24-06-2021 Penclacwydd, Carmarthenshire
2149km WSW 1y 11m 28d Alive (colour rings seen)
First ringing movement to Britain & Ireland

Little Tern (NW89388) Nestling
17-06-2019 near Gronant, Denbighshire
16-06-2021 Vestervig, Viborg: **56°43'N 8°15'E Denmark**
829km ENE 1y 11m 30d Caught by ringer
Second record to Denmark

Barn Owl (FJ33345) Nestling female
18-06-2021 Confidential site near Aberhosan, Montgomeryshire
07-11-2021 Dews Lake Farm, Lamphey, Pembrokeshire
127km SW 0y 4m 20d Freshly dead (leg only found)

Kestrel (EA71998) Nestling
17-06-2021 Bryn Garw, Lledrod, Ceredigion
11-09-2021 Rattray Head Lighthouse, Aberdeenshire
604km NNE 0y 2m 25d Alive (colour rings seen)

Chough (ET91759) Nestling
14-06-1999 Confidential site, Holy Island, Anglesey
13-02-2020 near South Stack, Anglesey
24-03-2021 near South Stack, Anglesey
06-07-2021 RSPB South Stack, Anglesey
-km WNW 22y 0m 22d Alive (colour rings seen)
Close to current British & Irish longevity record (23 years 11 days set in 2019)

Coal Tit (ALK0137) First-year
25-10-2020 Bidston, Wirral
20-04-2021 Bryn Eglwys Quarry, near Abergynolwyn, Meirionnydd
103km SW 0y 5m 26d Caught by ringer

Sand Martin (ATJ7688) Nestling
20-05-2021 Lax Hill, Rutland
29-06-2021 Llangorse Lake, Breconshire
192km WSW 0y 1m 9d Caught by ringer

Chiffchaff (NAP627) Full-grown
17-04-2021 Portland Bill, Dorset
19-04-2021 Trearddur, Anglesey
343km NNW 0y 0m 2d Freshly dead (hit glass)

Garden Warbler (AKR0183) Juvenile
16-07-2021 Llangorse Lake, Breconshire
16-08-2021 Thorpe Marsh, South Yorkshire
234km NE 0y 1m 0d Caught by ringer

Starling (LA56770) Nestling female
27-05-2009 Fair Isle, Shetland
14-05-2021 Pennard, Gower
899km SSW 11y 11m 17d Caught by ringer

Blackbird (LJ22920) Full-grown
15-02-2018 Llyn Parc Mawr, Anglesey
30-03-2021 Newbourne, Suffolk
404km ESE 3y 1m 15d Caught by ringer

Redstart (7976671) First-year male
31-08-2016 Pont-Neuf, Baden, Morbihan: **47°36'N 2°52'W France**
14-05-2021 Craig Arthur, Denbighshire
602km N 4y 8m 13d Alive (ring read in field)
First record from France

Dipper (RF77909) Adult female
18-05-2011 Six Bells, Abertillery, Gwent
12-05-2015 Six Bells, Abertillery, Gwent
16-04-2021 Six Bells, Abertillery, Gwent
1km 9y 10m 29d Alive (colour rings seen)
New British and Irish longevity record

House Sparrow (TL62962) Full-grown male
27-10-2008 Bedwas, E.Glamorgan
08-05-2021 Bedwas, E.Glamorgan
0km 12y 6m 11d Alive (colour rings seen)
Close to current British & Irish longevity record (12 years 8 months 27 days set in 2020)

White Wagtail (AKD0109) Juvenile
09-09-2018 Oxwich Marsh, Gower
06-06-2021 Bru, Jokuldalur, Nordur-Mula, Miðhálendi: **65°6'N 15°31'W Iceland**
1639km NNW 2y 8m 28d Freshly dead (hit by car)
Fourth record to Iceland

Rock Pipit (EL09844) Full-grown male
01-04-2021 Maletangen, Fraena, More og Romsdal: **62°58'N 7°3'E Norway**
06-12-2021 Cefni Estuary, Anglesey
1274km SW 0y 8m 5d Alive (colour rings seen)
Second record from Norway

Hawfinch (NW57109) First-year male
19-03-2011 Bont Newydd, Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
28-03-2011 Bont Newydd, Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
14-04-2012 Bont Newydd, Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
06-04-2013 Bont Newydd, Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
11-03-2014 Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
20-03-2015 Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
29-04-2016 near Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
13-04-2017 near Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
20-02-2018 near Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
18-01-2019 near Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
12-04-2021 near Dolgellau, Meirionnydd
5km 10y 0m 24d Caught by ringer
New British and Irish longevity record

Linnet (Z972608) Adult male
28-12-2018 Fort Belan, Caernarfonshire
05-10-2021 Samsonslane, Stronsay, Orkney
676km N 2y 9m 7d Caught by ringer

It takes several years to learn to be a ringer, as the welfare of the bird is paramount and I am grateful to all the ringers who ringed and recaptured birds in Wales, including the list of ringers, below, who submitted over 100 records each (in order of the number of records from the greatest first).

Gower RG, Teifi RG, Mid Wales RG, Skokholm RG, Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory, Merseyside RG, SCAN RG, Mr SG Dodd, Llangorse RG, Mr M Haigh, Spence & Brenchley, Mr P Roughley, Pembrokeshire RG, Mr PJ Belman, Belvide RG, Dr SJ Tyler, Ms A Stratford, Kenfig RG, Mr KA Capps, Dr MJ Wood, Mr K Jones, Fledgemore Nest Recording Group, Mr G Roberts, Cardiff RG, East Dales RG, Mr DG Coker, Mr DJ Stanyard, Mr JMS Lewis, Dr GE Austin, Shropshire RG, Mr PA Jenks, Mr D Anning, Havard and Sloan, Professor TR Birkhead, Mr JA Lawton Roberts, Mr AA Robinson, Dr FM Slater, Mr I Beggs, Mr LJ Barber, Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, RSPB, Mr PR Jenkins, Mr ORS Slessor, Mr RP Clevely, Mr J Richards, Mr WM Jones, Flat Holm RG and Mr PJ Rock.

Nest Record Scheme

The Nest Record Scheme (NRS) records the progress of an individual bird's nesting attempt and provides vital information on how many fledglings are produced. Linked with environmental data, this can help to identify the causes of population declines. Anyone can be a nest recorder, and those who do follow a code of conduct to make sure that recording this information minimises disturbance at nests. Being a nest recorder gives a greater understanding of where birds nest, the habits they prefer and bird behaviour.

With nest recording not possible for many during the COVID-19 pandemic, nest recording resumed in 2021 (5652 records) nearly equalling the previous highest total on record in 2019 (5811). Pied Flycatcher was the most monitored species in 2020 as most Blue Tit broods had fledged by the time COVID restrictions were relaxed. In 2021 Blue Tit regained its top position of most monitored species in Wales (1247). Pied Flycatcher (982), Great Tit (623), Dipper (225) and Barn Owl (199) followed. These species also had the largest increases in the number of records submitted between 2020 and 2021.

Above: Movements of Ringed Plovers overseas recorded during 2021.

Below: Movements of Siskin recorded during 2021.

Every nest record contributes to our knowledge of bird productivity, especially when found early in the nesting attempt, which also contributes more key information, principally first egg date, clutch size, number hatched and the nest outcome. It can be surprising to see that some common species are overlooked with regards to nest monitoring. For example in 2021, only seven Woodpigeons, two Canada Geese and one Rock Pipit were recorded, and not a single Reed Warbler. This does mean that every single nest can make a large contribution.

Nest recording is easy to do, providing the NRS Code of Conduct is followed. However, to find some nests of some species takes practice and experience. We are grateful to all the nest recorders who have given up their time to study and monitor wild birds, particularly the following who submitted nest records in Wales in 2021. In order of the number of records submitted with the highest first.

Fledgemore Nest Recording Group, Mid Wales RG, Merseyside RG, John Hyde, Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory, Gwent Nest Box Project, John Lloyd, John Lawton Roberts, Paul Roughley, Stephen Carter, Teifi RG, Lyndon Jeffery, Gower RG, NWWT Meirionnydd Woodlands, Havard and Sloan, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Spence and Brenchley, Kelvin Jones, Steph Tyler & Felicity Burge, Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, Matthew Wood, Skokholm RG, Claire Backshall, Mike Haigh, Jerry Lewis, David Owen, David Anning, Fred Slater, Ron Clevely, Facey and Vafidis, Gwyn Roberts, David Coker, Jim Clark, David Cooksey, Shropshire RG, Ceri Jones, Brian Briggs, Colin Everett, Paddy Jenks, Lee Barber, Jeremy Richards, Adrienne Stratford, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Steve Roberts, Neil Finch, East Dales RG, Parc Natur Penglais Support Group, Graham Brand, Cedwyn Davies,

Number of nest records for Wales per species in 2021: 5652 nests of 107 species

Species	No. records for 2020	No. records for 2021	Difference between years	Species	No. records for 2020	No. records for 2021	Difference between years
Mute Swan	10	25	15	Lesser Black-backed Gull	0	20	20
Canada Goose	0	2	2	Herring Gull	1	14	13
Mandarin Duck	0	2	2	Little Tern	5	155	150
Mallard	1	6	5	Guillemot	0	30	30
Goosander	3	1	-2	Razorbill	0	143	143
Fulmar	0	1	1	Puffin	0	41	41
Manx Shearwater	263	98	-165	Stock Dove	23	36	13
Storm Petrel	12	39	27	Woodpigeon	7	24	17
Cormorant	0	2	2	Collared Dove	1	2	1
Shag	8	29	21	Barn Owl	120	199	79
Little Egret	0	1	1	Little Owl	2	2	0
Little Grebe	0	1	1	Tawny Owl	4	18	14
Great Crested Grebe	1	8	7	Long-eared Owl	1	0	-1
Honey-buzzard	1	7	6	Nightjar	36	27	-9
Red Kite	3	25	22	Swift	1	3	2
Hen Harrier	2	3	1	Green Woodpecker	0	1	1
Goshawk	3	13	10	Great Spotted Woodpecker	0	1	1
Sparrowhawk	3	0	-3	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	0	-1
Buzzard	4	2	-2	Chough	35	64	29
Osprey	5	6	1	Jay	0	1	1
Kestrel	8	26	18	Jackdaw	17	28	11
Merlin	1	0	-1	Carrion Crow	3	3	0
Hobby	5	5	0	Raven	4	11	7
Peregrine	6	10	4	Firecrest	1	1	0
Moorhen	1	13	12	Blue Tit	210	1247	1037
Coot	4	75	71	Great Tit	160	623	463
Oystercatcher	0	5	5	Coal Tit	6	10	4
Little Ringed Plover	2	3	1	Willow Tit	0	2	2
Ringed Plover	1	11	10	Marsh Tit	0	5	5
Lapwing	8	8	0	Skylark	1	7	6
Curlew	0	1	1	Sand Martin	12	9	-3
Common Sandpiper	1	1	0	Swallow	60	132	72
Green Sandpiper	0	1	1	House Martin	4	7	3
Kittiwake	76	120	44	Long-tailed Tit	14	15	1

Species	No. records for 2020	No. records for 2021	Difference between years	Species	No. records for 2020	No. records for 2021	Difference between years
Wood Warbler	2	23	21	Redstart	34	114	80
Chiffchaff	0	6	6	Whinchat	0	2	2
Willow Warbler	1	11	10	Stonechat	0	4	4
Blackcap	1	21	20	Wheatear	0	10	10
Garden Warbler	3	3	0	Dunnock	9	25	16
Whitethroat	0	1	1	House Sparrow	79	125	46
Grasshopper Warbler	1	1	0	Grey Wagtail	5	62	57
Sedge Warbler	0	1	1	Pied Wagtail	7	35	28
Nuthatch	11	88	77	Tree Pipit	5	14	9
Treecreeper	3	5	2	Meadow Pipit	7	22	15
Wren	15	35	20	Rock Pipit	0	1	1
Starling	16	24	8	Chaffinch	5	10	5
Dipper	15	225	210	Greenfinch	1	0	-1
Ring Ouzel	1	0	-1	Goldfinch	2	15	13
Blackbird	77	167	90	Siskin	0	1	1
Song Thrush	37	99	62	Linnet	0	5	5
Mistle Thrush	2	4	2	Lesser Redpoll	2	2	0
Spotted Flycatcher	7	14	7	Bullfinch	3	5	2
Robin	22	58	36	Reed Bunting	1	1	0
Pied Flycatcher	309	982	673	**Total**	**1844**	**5652**	**3808**

Kate de Oliveira, David Woodhouse, Leo Smith, Christopher Naylor, Pembrokeshire RG, Janet Robinson, Sally Taylor, Goldcliff RG, David Greasley, Ieuan Evans, Viola Ross-Smith, Nicholas Beswick, Sue Southam, Mike Russell, Tammy Stretton, Ian Tillotson, Steve Dodd, Michael Thomas, Phil Belman, Allan Rustell, Graham Austin, Angus Barnett, Peter Jenkins, Ai-Lin Kee, Dan Rouse, Ian Beggs, Ed Drewitt, Richard Ellis, Kieran Foster, Ian Hartrey, Michael Lloyd, Keith Vaughton.

More information can be found at **www.bto.org/nrs**

The Welsh List: A Checklist of Birds of Wales (6th edition)

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Summary
This paper provides an update to the fifth edition of the Checklist of Birds of Wales (Thorpe and Stratford 2021). The list follows the BOURC British List (BOU 2022), which follows the International Ornithological Community (IOC) World Bird List version 12.2 (Gill *et al*. 2022). It also highlights changes in line with recent decisions by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC), the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). The full list is available on the Welsh Ornithological Society website: **https://birdsin.wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee**.

Introduction
This is the sixth edition of the *Checklist of Birds of Wales*, hereafter referred to as the Welsh List, and has been prepared as a statement of the status of those species that are known to have occurred in Wales and the surrounding seas (up to 12 nautical miles). It incorporates all changes up to 31 December 2022, based on accepted records that occurred up to 31 December 2021.

The Welsh List
The Welsh List is the list of birds recorded in Wales, maintained by the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) through the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). Records have only been included after acceptance by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) and/or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

The Welsh List (sixth edition) can be viewed on the WOS website. For each species, the list includes the English vernacular name, Welsh name and scientific name, and each is assigned to a Species Category and Species Status (see Thorpe and Stratford 2018 for full details). It is kept under regular review by the WBRC, with new species added, and potentially some removed following re-assessment. There remain a few issues to resolve over the subspecies identity of some species, but these do not impact on the assignment of species to categories.

In 2022, the BOURC created Category F as a formal means of assessing and recording the occurrence of bird species in Britain prior to 1800 (Cooper *et al*. 2022). Category F has been created for the Welsh List using the Supplementary Material provided in that paper, via the BOU website.

The BOURC and Association of European Records and Rarities Committees (AERC) has produced guidance on assigning species to Category C (McInerny *et al*. 2022). This provides, for the first time, a definition of what constitutes a "self-sustaining" population of non-native species and for assessing vagrants from translocated populations. This will be adopted in future editions of the Welsh List.

Taxonomy, English and Welsh names
In maintaining the Welsh List, the WBRC relies on the IOC World Bird List for all decisions regarding taxonomic issues and on the BOURC for English names. Welsh names follow those used in *The Birds of Wales/Adar Cymru* (Pritchard *et al*. 2021).

Changes since the fifth edition (2021)
The order and scientific names remain unchanged. The change to the species/subspecies list are:

PACIFIC SWIFT *Apus pacificus* COBLYN Y MOR TAWEL 2CY+ at Lewes Castle/Fall Bay, GOWER, on 27 June 2021 (Holt *et al*. 2022).

This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

The number of species recorded in Wales (as of 31 December 2022), within each category, is now as follows:

Category	*Total*
A	438
B	7
C	8
Total	**453**

Acknowledgements
The production of the list is not possible without the excellent work undertaken by the authors of the published references cited above and the work of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee, British Birds Rarities Committee and local Bird Club Committees in assessing records of birds in Wales.

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Book review: The Birds of Wales/Adar Cymru

Ieuan Evans

A tour de force of Welsh ornithology

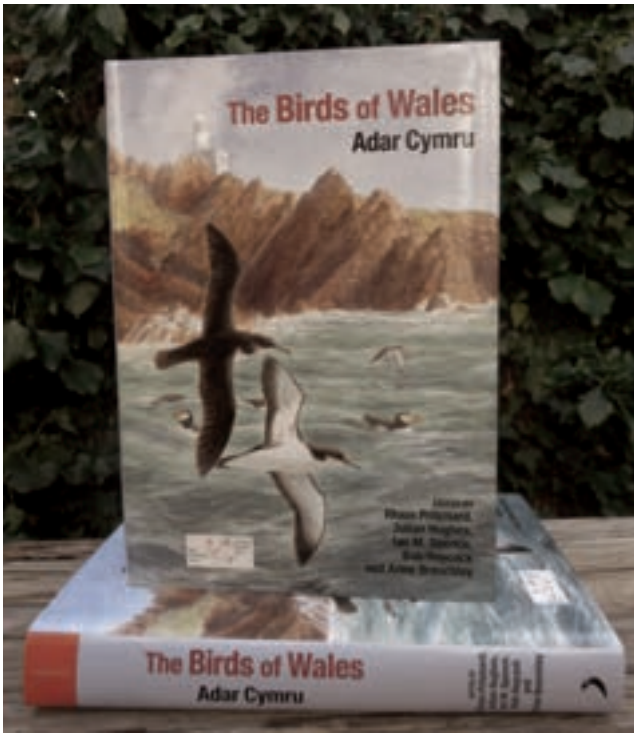
This fabulous book from the Welsh Ornithological Society gets off to a cracking start with a substantial preface by Roger Lovegrove, Graham Williams and Iolo Williams, the authors of the original *Birds in Wales*, published in 1994. This introduction sets the scene beautifully, giving a big picture overview of the main changes to Wales' bird populations, conservation successes and challenges, and land-use changes in the almost 30 years since the publication of their book.

The introductory chapters make for fascinating reading, providing very helpful contextual information about the landscape, geology, habitats, important bird sites and climate of Wales. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on Bird Conservation which provides some fascinating historical insights and priceless photos of some of the key people and places. These chapters also describe the bird recording environment, changes in bird population trends and the key drivers of change. The introduction closes with a look to the future for the birds of Wales, highlighting the big conservation issues, and likely winners and losers.

The species accounts are well constructed and provide an interesting and insightful summary of the historical range and distribution of individual species as well as notable changes and, where known, the causes of these changes. The occurrence of rare and scarce birds in Wales is well covered and the accounts of escapees are fascinating. The inclusion of the Welsh language name for each species is a welcome addition.

Not constrained to the breeding or wintering seasons, the species accounts draw data from a wide range of sources including the Wetland Bird Survey, BTO Garden BirdWatch, ringing recoveries, satellite tracking (where available), Rare Breeding Birds Panel, BirdTrack, the Breeding Bird Survey, bird observatory records and others. Individual accounts have been contributed by species experts with thousands of hours of hard-won knowledge and experience of Wales' birds and the habitats they are found in, so we benefit from accounts of the Honey-buzzard by Steve Roberts, Chough by Tony Cross and Adrienne Stratford, and Dipper by Steph Tyler, for example.

This is much more than a book of maps and graphs. I learned from Tony Fox's account that Gadwall are kleptoparasitic, obtaining parts of aquatic plants for their diet through the efforts of other waterbirds such as Mute



Swans and Moorhens which bring them to the surface. Peter Dare and Rhion Pritchard's account of Raven taught me that a roost at Newborough Forest on Anglesey peaked at 1871 birds in January 1997, when it was the second largest in the world. Annie Haycock's excellent account of the Starling includes the amazing fact that in the 1960s an estimated 1.5 million roosted at Cwm Ogwr in East Glamorgan. I learned that a Goldcrest was recorded at an altitude of 816m on Yr Wyddfa, Caernarfonshire, thanks to Chris Jones' species account. The sad decline in Wales of the Spotted Flycatcher was well illustrated by Geoff Gibbs and Ian Spence with the fact that in 1951 an observer found 127 nests in the areas around Llanymynech, Montgomeryshire, a feat that would be unheard of anywhere in the UK today. These accessible, entertaining and informative summaries make this a very enjoyable read and I found myself wanting to keep turning the pages to see what was on offer next.

The inclusion of stunning bird photographs (all of species in their Welsh habitats) within the carefully designed page layouts add huge value to the species accounts, break up the substantial texts and really bring the book to life. The icing on the cake is the wonderful illustrations by Philip Snow which adorn the cover and frontispiece.

I can't begin to imagine the blood, sweat and tears which must go into producing a work of this magnitude and quality. This book is an extraordinary contribution to our historical record of birds in Wales and a wonderful advertisement for the work of the Welsh Ornithological Society. It made me feel very grateful for the efforts of all the authors, and particularly for the contributions of the thousands of bird survey volunteers whose records form the basis of this book and for the conservationists who continue to fight for our birds. There is no coffee table in Wales that wouldn't be better for having a copy of this magnificent book on it.

The Birds of Wales/Adar Cymru, 2021 by Rhion Pritchard, Julian Hughes, Ian M. Spence, Bob Haycock and Anne Brenchley was published by Liverpool University Press and the Welsh Ornithological Society in 2021. Hardback, £45. ISBN 9781800859722.

County and other bird reports 2021

Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report 2021. Editor: John Wilson.
Available from the Editor, 122 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3HH. Price: £9 + £1.99 for p&p. Cheques payable to Glamorgan Bird Club.

Gower Birds - the birds of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot 2021.
Available from Jeremy Douglas-Jones, 14 Alder Way, West Cross, Swansea SA3 5PD. Price: £7. Cheques payable to Gower Ornithological Society.

Carmarthenshire Bird Report 2021. Editor: Rob Hunt.
Available from Gary Harper, Maesteg, Capel Seion, Drefach, Llanelli SA147BS. Cheque for £7 (includes postage) payable to Carmarthenshire Bird Club.

Pembrokeshire Bird Report 2021. Editors: S.E. Berry and J. Green.
Available online at
https://pembsbirds.blogspot.com/p/the-annual-pembrokeshire-bird-reports.html

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Montgomeryshire Bird Report 2021. Editor: Simon Boyes
Available online at
http://montgomerybirdblog.blogspot.com/p/county-reports.html

Cambrian Bird Report 2021. (Anglesey, Caernarfonshire and Meirionnydd). Editor: Rhion Pritchard.
Available from Geoff Gibbs, Fron Wen, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan LL33 0ET. Price £8 including p&p, cheque payable to Cambrian Ornithological Society.

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